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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 286

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2010

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24
DAYS TO GO
BEFORE CHRISTMAS

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Compared to last year's,
how much do you
intend to spend this
Christmas season?

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INSIDE



30 Years

Today marks the 30th anniversary
of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

LOCAL...Page 6



New Angels

Three models are the newest to win
Victoria's Secret "angel" status.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Freedom Air bid to expand flights draws opposing views

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other regional leaders support Freedom Air's application with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

tion to expand the airline's charter services to Hong Kong, Manila, Shanghai, Taipei and Palau, while others like the Air Line Pilots Association International wants the application denied.

Cape Air and Continental Micronesia

also separately urged DOT to investigate and carefully consider Freedom Air and its partners Fly Micronesia and World Aviation Inc. before acting on the application.

Freedom Air, a small commuter air

carrier, currently provides air services to Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

In June, Aviation Services Ltd. doing business as Freedom Air, applied for authority to engage in foreign charter

See FREEDOM AIR on Page 4

DPL exec charged with bribery

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Franz B. Reksid, the Department of Public Lands special assistant to the secretary, was arrested and brought to federal court on Monday on charges that he allegedly solicited a bribe from a company that had wanted to land a contract with DPL.

See DPL on Page 4

Petition, open letter to oust Glenna as LB chief

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

At least 18 lawmakers' employees have signed a petition seeking to remove Glenna SP Reyes as Legislative Bureau director, more than a month after the House leadership named former senator Maria Frica Pangelinan to replace her and the Senate adopted a resolution retaining Reyes.

See PETITION on Page 4



Reyes

MILITARY TRAINING

Two U.S. military preposition ships and overcast skies serve as a backdrop for a group of tourists preparing to dive in the Saipan Lagoon yesterday afternoon. Some 175 military personnel from the U.S. mainland have been aboard Saipan-based ships of the Maritime Preposition Ship Squadron 3 for an ongoing training in offloading military preposition force ships at sea. The training is scheduled to be completed on Dec. 10.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



SHEFA requests release of 67 pending checks for scholars. PAGE 3
Fire hits San Antonio, Koberville homes. PAGE 8

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Local

AngelRay brings cheer to Saipan patients in Hawaii

Teen cancer survivor Angel Ray T. Guerrero and Toni Villagomez of the CNMI Medical Referral Office in Honolulu show the bags of bread and cookies that they gave away to Saipan patients in Honolulu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

On the eve of a medical scan of his brain, spine and lumbar area, teen cancer survivor Angel Ray T. Guerrero took time to bring cheer to fellow Saipan patients in Honolulu, Hawaii, by sharing with them bread and cookies from Saipan.

Angel Ray is in Honolulu for a follow-up medical check.

He is accompanied by his mother, Vicky Guerrero, who is the governor's special assistant for programs and legislative review.

"While in Honolulu, Angel-Ray continues to reach out to our people," Mrs. Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said Angel Ray met up 10 people from Saipan who are in Honolulu for either cancer or other types of illness.

"He started knocking on doors right before dinner today to check up on them and give them Herman's Bakery bread and cookies. According to Angel, this is one way of showing them that we care about them, especially that the Christmas holiday is just coming up," Mrs. Guerrero said.

Mrs. Guerrero also said her son "did very good today [Monday]."

"An appointment with his ophthalmologist today revealed that he did not have to go through eye surgery now and his doctor, Dr. Young, of Kapiolani wants to see him back in six months for his double vision," she added.

Mrs. Guerrero said her son asked Toni Villagomez of the

CNMI Medical Referral Office in Honolulu to walk with him with bags of bread and cookies to visit Saipan patients.

On Tuesday in Honolulu (Wednesday on Saipan), Angel-Ray "will be undergoing MRI of the brain, spinal and the lumbar area," Mrs. Guerrero said.

Guerrero, 16, was diagnosed with brain cancer in July 2007 when he was only 12. He spent 15 months in Hawaii for treatment, including multiple surgeries, extended chemotherapy and radiation, and grueling physical, occupational, and speech therapy to combat his cancer.

Despite his condition, Angel-Ray has been cheering up others by donating books, bookshelves, toys, wheelchairs, clothing, hospital items, television sets, ventilators and other materials to children, hospitals and other entities.

The Senate earlier presented a resolution honoring Angel Ray for his inspirational courage and resilience and for his generous contributions to the community.

Christmas CD to benefit Karidat

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

cultural exchange and harmony as we are united in God's love," he added.

The United in Love organization recently launched its first Christmas CD to benefit a nonprofit organization on Saipan.

Founded in April, United in Love consists of private individuals who come together on a regular basis to raise funds for religious and charitable causes through music projects.

Member Joe Limes told

TO BUY CD

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Bernadette Choi: 287-2444,
Malua Peter: 285-8281
Raffaella Perry: 989-0824

Limes said Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho is also part of the Christmas

CD that took about two to three weeks to create.

According to Limes, the album was recorded on island and sent to Korea for reproduction.

He said 500 CDs arrived last week and are for sale at \$15 each. Proceeds from the CD sales will benefit Karidat Social Services.

Limes said the CDs arrived in time for their get-together on Nov. 20 at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall, during which certificates were given to all participants and contributors for the Christmas CD project.

He gave credit to local artist Marvin Deleon Guerrero for the use of his home studio in recording the songs as

well as his time and assistance for the project.

Limes encouraged the public to get a copy of the CD to help the group raise funds for Karidat.

"United in Love appreciates the island community's support and looks forward to continuing its musical ministry in liturgical celebrations and future music projects," he said.

To buy the CD, call Karidat at 234-5248, Bernadette Choi at 287-2444, Malua Peter at 285-8281 or Raffaella Perry at 989-0824.

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SHEFA requests release of 67 pending checks for scholars

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance board has requested the Department of Finance to expedite the release of pending checks for scholars here and off-island.

During Friday's special meeting, board member Maggie Camacho said that a total of 141 recipients will get their financial assistance soon once the Treasury Division clears their records.

Of the 141 recipients, 79 are on island students, while 62 are off island. These are for the grant-in-aid financial assistance only, and do not include the priority field of study and the incentive awards to deserving

students.

SHEFA approved a total of 628 applications for this semester. Of that number, 383 checks have already been released, which leaves 245 more checks to be issued.

Of the 245 pending checks, 141 are now being processed.

This means there are still 104 students waiting to be funded in the amount of \$124,800. Camacho said the board is still working with the Finance Department on how to meet this obligation as the semester is now about to end.

Of the three types of financial assistance SHEFA offers, Camacho said a significant number has already been disbursed to grant-in-aid recipients. Grant-in-aid awards \$1,200 to

on-island scholars and \$2,000 to off-island recipients.

Each fiscal year, over \$3 million is appropriated by the Legislature for SHEFA scholarships. The funding comes from poker fees and related revenues.

Camacho blamed the checks' delay on the cash-flow problem of the government.

In October alone, poker fees collected only amounted to about \$184,000, she said.

Camacho disclosed that, as of last week, SHEFA only had \$214,000 in available funding for its scholars.

"This is the reason why we are requesting [checks] in smaller batches. Although we have that money on paper, cash flow is always the problem," she explained to the board.

EPA questions CUC's \$200 fee to access website

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has expressed concern with the \$200 non-refundable fee the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is charging anyone who wants to gain access to CUC's website to review its master plan project.

In the U.S. government's second status report filed Wednesday in federal court, EPA counsel Bradley R. O'Brien said the fee may discourage companies from even considering the proposed master plan project.

In its status report, CUC states it would not be launching its advertising website for the "scope of work and request for proposal" for the master plan until Nov. 15, 2010, nearly one and a half month after EPA's approval. CUC believes this delay will not affect the timing of its submission of qualified offerors to EPA.

O'Brien said, however, that EPA is concerned that this delay in initiating the advertising pro-

cess and the access restrictions will limit the number of firms that will submit proposals.

He said these will also limit the time companies will have to prepare and submit proposals in response to the advertisements. At the same time, he said, these will limit the time CUC has to review and rank firms and submit qualified proposals to EPA.

In CUC's second status report filed on Nov. 13, 2010, CUC counsel Deborah E. Fisher said the utilities agency plans to solicit 50 top engineering and de-

sign firms for the master plan project, as well as advertise locally and in Seattle.

Fisher said CUC procured a contractor to modify its website.

CUC expects to present a minimum of three bidders to EPA on or before Jan. 30, 2011.

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'Students not properly informed'

The new SHEFA board under the leadership of chair Jose Mafnas has vowed to not only address the fiscal challenges of the program but also to provide better assistance to Commonwealth students.

Board members disclosed at the meeting that the office has been bombarded by calls of stu-

dents inquiring about the status of their applications.

Acting administrator Jeff Tomokane said most of these calls cited the absence of notification from SHEFA about the status of their applications.

"They submitted their documents...but they were not informed if their applications are denied or approved. The students are upset because they claimed that they've been waiting for a response which they never received," said To-

mokane.

The board has ruled that students' concerns will be given high priority and that proper notification or reminder should be sent out to them.

"We have to take it case-by-case. We need to pull out their files so we can review and take appropriate actions," said Camacho.

The board also voted to review the six denied applications that had appealed.

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Fund portfolio at \$318M in October

»Pension payouts total \$64.5M last fiscal year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's investment portfolio fared relatively well this year after ending October at \$318 million, Fund officials said.

During its regular meeting yesterday, the board of trustees reported that the Fund's total investment equity was valued at \$228 million as of Oct. 31, while fixed income and other investments amounted to \$87 million and \$2.3 million respectively.

According to Esther Ada, the Fund's internal auditor, the pension program also gained substantial savings on its drawdowns (withdrawals from its investments) in fiscal year 2010, which ended Sept. 30.

Based on preliminary and unaudited Fund data, some \$15 million was not withdrawn last fiscal

year from the board-authorized \$54.5 million drawdown.

Ada said this was a result of the higher employer contribution of 20 percent remitted by the central government starting in fiscal year 2009 and the continuous remittance of taxes due the Fund.

The Fund's assets are invested in stocks and in the money market, government bonds, corporate bonds, common stocks, and hedge fund. Local Fund investments include the Member Home Loan Program, Group Health Life Insurance, the judicial building loan, and the Commonwealth Government Employee Credit Union.

According to board chair Sixto Igisomar, the Fund made an average monthly drawdown of \$3.2 million last fiscal year.

He noted that there were only three months in the 12-month period that the Fund took out more than the budgeted draw-

down allocation.

Igisomar disclosed that the highest drawdown was made in September 2010, at \$4.9 million; \$4 million was withdrawn from the investment portfolio in March and June this year.

The board also disclosed that in fiscal year 2010, a total of \$64.5 million in pensions was paid out: \$52.4 million for regular pension and \$6.3 million for survivors' benefits, disability and death claims.

The Fund also paid out \$3.9 million in contribution refunds last fiscal year.

Ada pointed out that these figures are unaudited and are subject to further adjustments.

She said that, while the investment performance in fair market value increased by \$24.2 million last fiscal year, the agency posted a net loss of \$17.1 million on its operation in the same period.

DPL

From Page 1

The indictment charged the 70-year-old Reksid with one count of bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The indictment was filed under seal in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010. The court unsealed the case yesterday following a request by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley.

O'Malley said there is no longer a need to keep the case sealed as Reksid had already been notified through his lawyer

to appear in court on Monday.

Reksid appeared with counsel, Mark Hanson, on Monday at 4pm. He pleaded not guilty.

Reksid was released on a \$25,000 bond.

His jury trial will start on Jan. 18, 2011, at 9am.

Reksid, as special assistant to the DPL Secretary, was responsible for overseeing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants to DPL. The grants included the funding for removal and disposal of unexploded ordnance left behind from World War II in Marpi on Saipan. According to Alicia Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and

the NMI.

She said the indictment charged Reksid with soliciting bribe money in connection with awarding the contract.

The indictment alleged that Reksid solicited payment in the amount of \$3,000 from the owner of a business seeking to obtain a contract with DPL. EPA's grant funded the contract.

Limtiaco said federal agents from EPA's Office of the Inspector General conducted the investigation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor assisted in the investigation, Limtiaco said.

PETITION

From Page 1

The petitioners "overwhelmingly urge" House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) to remove Reyes.

The signed petition, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, was handed yesterday afternoon to the offices of Tenorio and Manglona.

"The Constitution requires that a director be appointed by the joint legislative leadership. The current leadership was never given the respect or the option to appoint a director," the petitioners said.

They also said failure to agree on this appointment paralyzes the operation of the bureau and the Legislature as a whole.

Manglona and Tenorio have never met to discuss the bureau director's appointment. Since the 17th Legislature took over in January, questions on the validity of the director's appointment and contract have never been mutually addressed by the Senate and House leaderships.

Tenorio twice asked Reyes to vacate her office, citing the CNMI Constitution and the terms of Reyes' own contract, but Manglona said Reyes still has the position.

"We feel that the current leadership of the House and the Senate has a constitutional duty to meet and negotiate in good faith over the appointment of a director," the petitioners said.

Saipan Tribune asked Reyes for comment on the petition, but she had yet to respond as of press time.

'Unfair treatment'

Reyes is the wife of the current Senate floor leader, Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), who was the Senate president when the director's contract was renewed in 2009.

The petitioners also said the LB director has been making "many unfair treatments toward the employees."

"For fear of losing their jobs and to avoid any hostile treatment from the current director, we the employees of our elected officials sign this petition on behalf of the legislative bureau employees," they said.

They also expressed opposition to the decision to retain Reyes as LB director, as well as to the Senate resolution maintaining her.

The petitioners cited Article II, section 17 of the CNMI Constitution establishing the

ing delinquent.

The home loan program, one of the Fund's four local investments, had been previously suspended, also because of the high delinquency rate. It was re-opened in July this year and allocated \$1 million as revolving fund in hopes that it may help the agency pay its other obligations.

"Look at the delinquency ratio. Look at the hardship. Until the situation gets better, I believe we have to suspend it," trustee Adelina C. Roberto said.

The suspension will stop the Fund from entertaining new applicants for the program. However, efforts to collect from borrowers will remain.

It was also mentioned that the

Veterans outreach today at WIA office

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

A representative from the Guam Department of Labor Disabled Veterans Outreach Program is on island today and tomorrow as part of their outreach activity to CNMI veterans.

Coordinator Jackie Nyugen began the veterans outreach on Rota last Nov. 29-30 and will conduct four sessions on Saipan from Dec. 1 to Dec. 2 at the WIA office in Capitol Hill.

Morning sessions are from 9am to noon and afternoon sessions are from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

Schedule for Tinian will be on Dec. 3 from 9am to 3pm at the Northern Marianas College Tinian Campus.

Veterans Affairs executive office Ruth Coleman told *Saipan Tribune* that the outreach activity is a partnership between WIA, CNMI Veterans Affairs Office, and the U.S. Department of Labor.

She said Nyugen will be joined by vocational rehabilitation counselor Dr. Edward L. Santos.

Coleman said it is important that veterans attend the sessions to know more about their benefits such as job placement and other forms of assistance that

can be rendered to them as well as their families.

"They will know more about services available for them, how they can avail of these services, who they should contact if they want to avail of the services," she added.

Coleman said the outreach activity is also available for active service members and their families.

She encouraged all members and service members to take advantage of this great opportunity.

For registration or more information, contact WIA at 664-1708, 1757, 1705 or 1707.

FREEDOM

From Page 1

air transportation of persons, property and mail using large aircraft, and asked that its commuter air carrier authority be preserved or other exemption be granted.

Since that filing, Freedom Air's application has received comments and responses to comments in support of and against its application.

Fitial said Freedom Air's pending expansion would provide a significant benefit to Guam and the CNMI, which both rely on tourism.

"Authorizing Freedom Air to provide charter services... will provide more choices for travelers to visit the Northern Marianas and will enable us to further promote economic growth, employment and revenue," Fitial said in a letter to U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray La Hood.

The Air Line Pilots Associa-

tion said the air transportation that would be provided on these certificates would be provided not by a U.S. citizen but by Fly Micronesia Ltd., a foreign citizen.

The ALPA asks DOT to deny Freedom Air's applications.

Continental Micronesia said it does not oppose Freedom Air's application, but does urge DOT to consider carefully several unusual issues raised by the application before granting Freedom Air any authority to transform itself from a very small commuter air carrier offering scheduled service with a single Shorts 330 aircraft and air taxi service with small aircraft.

Continental cited, among other things, that although Freedom Air has projected start-up costs of over \$2.56 million, Freedom Air's balance sheet as of Feb. 29, 2010 indicates it has only \$11,185.50 cash in the bank and only \$402,850.72 in total assets.

It also cited that the initial contract between Freedom Air and World Aviation Inc. states

that Freedom Air wishes to expand its operations to fly to Hong Kong, China, Japan and the Philippines "but lacks resources to fund this expansion."

Cape Air said substantial questions requiring rigorous examination by DOT are raised by Freedom Air's applications, and "urges the department to investigate Freedom Air, Fly Micronesia, and WAI Asia thoroughly." CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan and Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo also separately wrote to DOT in full support of Freedom Air's application.

The Marianas Visitors Authority and the American Samoa Visitors Bureau separately wrote to DOT, in support of Freedom Air's application.

Others who wrote to DOT to support Freedom Air in its applications were the A.B. Won Pat/Guam International Airport Authority and the Guam Chamber of Commerce.

DOT earlier asked Freedom Air to submit additional information and clarify other information.

Legislative Bureau headed by a director appointed by the joint leadership of the Legislature.

'Dictatorial management'

Mary Ann Calvo, one of those who signed the petition, also wrote the Senate president a four-page letter as an "advocate for the LB employees."

Calvo, in a phone interview, said that LB employees fear losing their job if they speak out against Reyes.

Calvo's Nov. 15 letter cited the bureau employees' major concerns about Reyes, including her alleged dictatorial or tyrannical style of management, discrimination, extreme micro-management, abuse of power, and daily legal violations.

She cited as an example employees' complaint about Reyes

not hesitating to confront LB employees anywhere within the building "in a hostile and degrading" manner.

In her opinion, Calvo said, this is unprofessional and humiliating to the employees.

The LB employees, according to Calvo, said Reyes monitors the employees' evaluations of her as LB director.

Calvo said this is not only another act of extreme micro-management on Reyes' part but is also another violation of employees' freedom of speech.

"In addition, the fact that she tampers with these evaluations is a grave indication of her want to shield the truth of the matter at hand," said Calvo.

Calvo said she has no personal vendetta against Reyes and she finds her to be a pleasant acquaintance outside of the

Legislature.

"However, my conscience does not allow me to stand by and silently watch innocent citizens be victimized by her wrath," said Calvo, who is a former human resource manager for Pacific Islands Club-Guam/Saipan, TownHouse Saipan and Pacific Data Co.-Guam/CNMI.

Calvo told the Senate president that he has a fiduciary duty to make sure that employees obey the law and are treated fairly.

"Director Reyes' actions are illegal (at the Constitutional level and at the local level), embarrassing and alarming. And so, on behalf of these employees, I urge you to do the right thing in the best interest of these individuals, of the Legislature, and of our society at large," Calvo told Manglona.

FUND

From Page 1

hampered by the depressed state of the CNMI economy.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are 109 housing loans under the program, of which 39 percent of borrowers are either in default or on their way to be-

across-the-board work-hour reduction among government employees.

To assist borrowers who are in default or in the process of becoming delinquent, the board instructed the Fund to work with the investment and finance committee to come up with a comprehensive assessment of the program.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar gave instructions for the formulation of "alternatives" that the board may consider.

He admitted that when the board reopened the program early this year, there were some concerns that were never fully assessed such as the cost that will be incurred to revive it.

DESPITE BUDGET WOES, LACK OF DOCTORS

'Tinian Health Center's operation is still manageable'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite reports of inadequate medical services, Tinian Health Center resident director Raymond Dela Cruz Jr. believes the current health situation on the island is still manageable and said that a replacement for the center's recently resigned physician will soon be named.

"The resident physician, Dr. Priyantha Wijayagunaratne, had resigned for personal reason way ahead of the expiration of his contract. It was a personal decision made by Dr. Wijay. We are negotiating with several interested physicians and we are confident of securing a replacement," he said.

Kilili campaign raises \$86K; three losing delegate bets yet to beat Dec. 2 deadline



Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan raised \$86,103 for his re-election campaign, while the three losing delegate candidates have yet to file with the Federal Election Commission their 12-day post-general financial reports related to the Nov. 2 elections.

The FEC deadline for the 12-day post-general financial reports is Dec. 2, Thursday.

FEC earlier cited the Committee to Elect Juan N. Babauta, along with 33 other campaign committees, for failure to file their 12-day pre-general financial reports.

The campaigns of Jesse Borja and Joseph Camacho, along with Sablan, met the Oct. 21 deadline for the first report.

Based on FEC data as of Nov. 22, Sablan's campaign raised a total of \$86,103, which is some \$3,000 more than what the campaign reported in the previous reporting period.

Of the amount raised from cash and in-kind contributions, the Sablan campaign spent \$60,780.

Because the three other candidates have yet to submit their financial reports, the 2010 U.S. House and Senate campaign finance data posted on the FEC website still reflects previous figures ranging from \$24,159 to \$34,979 in funds raised during their campaigns.

The FEC is an independent regulatory agency that administers and enforces federal campaign finance laws. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

ment and an additional physician," said Dela Cruz.

He conceded that the budgetary problems plaguing the CNMI government has had an adverse effect on the health center's operations but he said this will not hamper the delivery of health care services.

As an emergency protocol, Dela Cruz said, any patient requiring consultation or further treatment are being sent to the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan. For major illnesses or medical conditions, once stabilized, the patient will be flown at once to CHC. He said this policy stands even when there is a resident physician at the center.

The center, he added, is also working on reducing the island's medical referral costs.

"We have been working on bringing the specialty clinics to Tinian Health Center to help defray the expenses of medical referral. So far, by bringing both the Marianas Eye Institute and Hardt Eye Clinic to Tinian, they are providing [health care] to an average of 40 patients per day.

In addition to eye clinics, we have been bringing an OB-Gyne to provide clinics for women in the community. We are looking forward to bringing in other specialties," he said.

Dela Cruz assured that there will be no disruption of medical care and he is working closely with the mayor and the Tinian Legislative Delegation to address the center's needs.

Delivery of specimens

Dela Cruz also said they have already resolved the suspension of the delivery of specimens to the island. Freedom Air recently stopped doing this due to the center's unpaid obligations.

"Lab specimens requiring further testing are sent to the CHC lab via Freedom Air. The issue of Freedom Air has been resolved by the Department of Finance's issuance of a purchase order and it is now processing payment. Freedom Air, Finance, [Tinian] Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, and my office are working closely to address all pending payment

for Freedom Air," said Dela Cruz without disclosing the figures involved.

New medical equipment

He also disclosed that the center will soon see improvements as renovation and expansion works are at the final stage.

"In addition to the daily operations, my staff and I are working closely with the CIP Office on Saipan on the bidding of new medical equipment [digital X-ray, dental X-ray, lab, and others] as provided for by an OIA grant," he said.

In addition, through funding from the mayor and the Tinian Legislative Delegation, the clinic's rooms, emergency room, and bathroom are now being renovated. "We are directing many efforts to make the improvements."

Direct hires

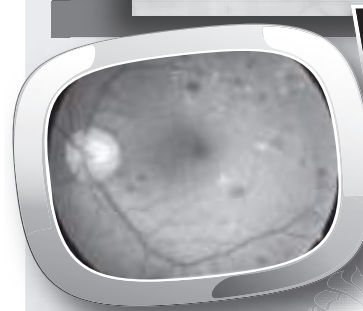
As provided for by the fiscal year 2011 budget law, Dela Cruz said that nurses and the medical ancillary staff are now under process to be hired di-

rectly by the center.

"Their papers are now in the process and we are looking forward in completing this impor-

tant process," he said.

The center has 15 nurses. It accommodates about 50 patients daily.



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Alia Maja Sablan
TV Personality

Hyatt Regency celebrates 30 years on Saipan today

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Today marks the 30th anniversary of Hyatt Regency Saipan, the only international hotel on island, and it has prepared a month-long celebration that features an array of events, special set menus and a la carte choices, as well as exclusive rates—all intended to highlight yet another remarkable milestone for this Garapan landmark.

According to executive chef Gabriele Colombo, his culinary team has come up with special set menus and food banquets that will showcase dishes for which every Hyatt restaurant is famous for.

“For our anniversary, we will provide our diners with 30-percent discount. We really pushed for this promo because we want them to try and know what our food is all about,” said Colombo.



Bailey's Cheesecake.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The Culinary Showcase at Kili Café & Terrace until Dec. 4, for instance, will highlight not only its own specialties but also that of the Miyako and Giovanni's restaurants, like live stations and Italian treats.

Chef de cuisine Simplicio Taga Jr. said their anniversary menu will also feature different hot and special selections throughout the promo.

Hyatt Regency Saipan has also set its sights



Members of the talented and innovative culinary team of Hyatt Regency Saipan. From left, chef de cuisine Simplicio Taga Jr.; pastry chef Desman Tumangger; chef de cuisine Zenn Tomokane; and executive chef Gabriele Colombo.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

on a double celebration by matching its anniversary month with the holiday festivities by featuring a dessert buffet that reflects the Christmas season.

“We want to make our guests feel and enjoy



Hyatt's decadent cherry and blueberry cheesecake.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

the holiday spirit through our dessert buffet,” says pastry chef Desman Tumangger.

The team's pastry making skills were recently enhanced, thanks to their participation in Pastries in Paradise 2010. The annual fundraising event held in October featured top pastry chefs showcasing their skills and competing for prizes.

The four-man team of Taga, chef de cuisine Zenn Tomokane, Tumangger, and chef de partie Joseph Deleon Guerrero joined the competition for the first time.

Sample the team's sweet creations like the Bailey's chocolate mousse, Bailey's cheesecake, and the Anzak cookies during their anniversary dessert buffet promotion or by purchasing the treats at DJ's Corner.

Taga added that they now offer feast to go orders for turkey, ham, and pastries in time for the holiday season.

HYATT PROMOS, ACTIVITIES

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony: Hyatt Regency Saipan will mark the beginning of the Christmas season by turning on the Christmas tree lights at the Hyatt lobby. Make a Wish Foundation representatives will be present to witness the annual event at 6pm tonight.

30th Anniversary Photo Gallery: This photo gallery will feature anniversary commemorative photos, including those of Hyatt's three pioneer employees. The photo gallery will be put on display beginning today at the hotel lobby.

Grand Anniversary Cocktail: Hyatt Regency Saipan General Manager Nick Nishikawa will share the hotel's milestone with some 200 guests in an exclusive event at the Hyatt Gardens, also tonight.

Truffles for Thirty at Giovanni's: Truffles for Thirty is a pre-plated, five-course gourmet set dinner that will feature black truffle, usually used in haute cuisine. This event is slated for Dec. 10 and is limited to only 30 individuals or 15 couples at \$125 per person.

Teppanyaki Anniversary Special: The island's finest teppanyaki restaurant will feature a special menu that includes prime Angus beef. A la carte and set menu options available until Dec. 4.

“Culinary Showcase” at Kili Café and Terrace: Kili Café will feature its own as well as the culinary highlights of Giovanni's, Teppanyaki, and Miyako Restaurants. The special buffet menu includes Italian staples and salad station, a Japanese corner, hot selections, live carving stations, a kelaguen station, as well as the dessert grand buffet. Buffet costs \$38 per person, inclusive of wine and beer. Promo runs until Dec. 4.

DJ's Corner: Purchase a Christmas Hamper, filled with a variety of yummy delicacies. These Christmas baskets will be available from Dec. 13 to 31. Also, experience a life size Gingerbread House at the hotel's pastry shop from Dec. 13 to 26.

Christmas Carols and Photo Opportunity: Feel the festive mood of this season through the melodious sounds of Christmas carols at the hotel lobby from Dec. 22 to 25 for an hour starting at 6pm. Children whose parents dine at any of Hyatt's restaurants can have their much awaited photo opportunity with Santa Claus, also from Dec. 22 to 25, from 7pm to 8pm.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-11-008

Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase II-A, Power Poles & Lines Relocation, Papago, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the relocation of overhead power distribution systems along Cross Island Road in Papago, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting followed by a site visit, is scheduled for November 29, 2010 at 10:00 AM, local time, at the CUC Conference Room in the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All bidder are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the project site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-11-008, Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase II-A, Power Poles & Lines Relocation, Papago, Saipan”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than December 09, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CHST) at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on December 3, 2010 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. John Onedera, Power Division Engineer- johno@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE U. MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW11-RFP-001

ENGINEERING DESIGN OF BEACH ROAD/TUN SEGUNDO TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM, Project No.: CM-NH-0033(021) Saipan, CNMI

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting proposals for the Engineering Design of Beach Road/Tun Segundo Traffic Signal System on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement will be made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures will be in full compliance with **\$70.30.3-305** of the regulations. However, the project is funded under Federal grant, Article 7 Local Business Preference is not applicable.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from the Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Scope of work will be available on or after **November 18, 2010** at the DPW, Technical Services Division located at 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A Pre-Proposal conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works conference Room 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **December 7, 2010**. Question regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing addressed to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division by calling telephone numbers 670-234-9828/9838 or fax to 670-234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **December 17, 2010**.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers must also submit a separate of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty-five (25) pages. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant **cannot** submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 20%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 20%
3. Project Approach – 25%
4. Schedule of Completion – 35%

Sealed proposals must be marked “**DPW11-RFP-001**”. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, December 21, 2010 to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers from outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a “Notice of Intent to submit Proposal”. Notices of intent must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, December 21, 2010, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurementn@vzppacific.net. Proposers from outside the CNMI must submit one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service of the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than December 21, 2010 AND must be received no later than December 31, 2010. Failure to submit the required number of copies may result in rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (30 firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon. The Successful proposer will be subject to responsibility determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The project is federally funded and the award of the contract is contingent upon the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

All responses to this RFP must take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ Martin C. Sablan
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply



Celebrating 30 Years of Authentic Hospitality



Message from the General Manager

It has been a great 30 years for us and we want you to celebrate with us. As we celebrate our 30th Anniversary of providing authentic hospitality, Hyatt Regency Saipan wants to give back to the people, friends and communities that made us successful throughout the years by saying "thank you". To commemorate our anniversary and express our gratitude to the community, we will continue to offer quality products, excellent service and many other events to exceed your expectation of us. - Nick Nishikawa

Authentic Package

Experience the true essence of paradise at Hyatt. For US\$100 plus 10% tax per room per night, do not miss the value-added benefits, variation of international cuisines, exceptional spa, and your expectations being exceeded at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Rate includes American breakfast buffet for 2 persons, complimentary access to Club Elan Fitness Centre which includes access to the gym, jacuzzi, sauna, swimming pool, aerobic classes and locker rooms.

* Reservation in advance is required. Package is applicable exclusively to CNMI and Guam residents. ID must be presented upon check-in. Maximum occupancy is 2 adults and 2 children under the age of 12. Offer valid from November 15 till December 15, 2010.

Food & Beverage Promotions

Giovanni's

Indulge in an array of culinary masterpieces which include favorites from yesteryears of Giovanni's and Oceana. A la carte and set menu options available from November 15 till December 4, 2010

Teppanyaki

Savor a specially created set menu by our talented Teppanyaki chefs just for the occasion. From November 15 till December 4, 2010

"Culinary Showcase" at Kili Café

Kili Café & Terrace presents a celebratory dinner buffet featuring popular BBQ favorites, Japanese delicacies, Italian delights and local creations from our signature specialty restaurants. From November 29 till December 4, 2010

US\$38.00 per person, includes wine and beer

* Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

Local Dining Discount

30% on food only, except DJ's Corner, Banquet and In-room Dining.

* Discount is not applicable in conjunction with other discounts. Discount is applicable exclusively to CNMI and Guam residents. Offer valid from November 15 till December 15, 2010.

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mariana island signature massage

tasi-restore

aromatherapy

mā'te-cleanse

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hafnot-energize

muscle relief massage

* Exclusively available to CNMI and Guam residents. ID must be presented upon treatment. Strictly based on availability. Offer valid from November 15 till December 15, 2010.

Club Elan Specials

Don't miss the exclusive day-pass discount of 30% at Club Elan fitness centre! Present a valid CNMI and Guam resident ID and avail of the great discount starting from November 15 till December 15, 2010. Day-pass includes access to the gym, jacuzzi, sauna, swimming pool, aerobic classes and locker rooms.

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Fire hits San Antonio, Koberville homes

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Separate fires hit two wood and tin houses in San Antonio and Koberville on Saipan over the weekend.

No one was reported injured in the two incidents, according to acting police spokesman Eric F. David yesterday.

David said investigators are still trying to determine the cause of the fires.

David said the first fire involved an abandoned single dwelling wooden tin house in San Antonio on Saturday afternoon. Police received a call about the blaze at 2:38pm.

Arson investigator Romeo Iginio's investigation showed that medics and fire engines arrived at the scene at 2:50pm and immediately controlled the blaze.

Investigators determined that the fire started at the western

portion of the house.

The second fire hit a single dwelling wooden tin house located behind Han Nam Supermarket in Koberville late Sunday afternoon.

David said police received a call about the fire at 5:41pm and medics and fire engines arrived

at the scene at 6:04pm.

Firefighters placed the fire under control at 6:26pm.

Arson investigator Anthony Babauta's investigation showed that the blaze originated from a storage room of the residence.

The fire quickly spread throughout the building. The

blaze engulfed about 50 percent of the building, according to David.

Firefighters were able to stop the fire from jumping to neighboring houses.

David said the house owner, Flor Bautista Jr., was not around when the fire broke out.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Department of Public Safety will kick off its Designated Driver Program this weekend on Saipan. Present at yesterday's news briefing, from left to right, are Police Officer 1 Maverick Saures, Conservation Officer John Tagabuel, and Police Officer 2 Eric F. David.

Designated Driver Program kicks off this weekend

The Department of Public Safety will kick off its Designated Driver Program on Saipan this weekend to prevent or reduce vehicular crashes during the holiday season.

The program will be held every weekend throughout December, from Friday to Sunday, 6pm to 6am.

It will allow intoxicated persons to avail of free transportation services to their homes or hotels by calling 898-4357 (898 HELP) or 898-7283 (898 SAVE), said Police Officer 1 Maverick Saures.

Volunteer designated drivers will be using rented cars, according to Saures, who is this year's chairman of DPS Drunk and Drugged Driving (3Ds) prevention month program.


He said Docomo Pacific will provide four cell phones for the program.

He also announced that DPS will kick off today, Wednesday, the 3Ds Program with an islandwide motorcade that will start at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe at 2pm.


Saures said they will also set up sobriety checkpoints beginning next week.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Community Guidance Center, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority are joining this year's 3Ds program.

Saures said the 3D program has been proven effective in reducing traffic crashes during the holiday season. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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INVITATION TO BID

NMHC IFB 2010-014 - AMENDMENT #01

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **REHABILITATION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX SOFTBALL FIELD FENCING & ELECTRICAL ROOM** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Friday, November 12, 2010, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM20080001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 23, 2010**, at the Susupe Sports Complex Softball Field Fencing & Electrical Room project site in Susupe, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2010-014**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Monday, December 6, 2010**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Monday, December 6, 2010 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than Monday, December 6, 2010 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than Friday, December 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 11:00 a.m. local time, Monday, December 13, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m., local time, Monday, December 6, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Rehabilitation of the Susupe Sports Complex Softball Field Fencing & Electrical Room". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is seventy-five (75) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."


NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
NMHC Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 1, 1998

Garment cap bill heads to Senate

A legislation limiting the size of foreign workers employed by the garment industry appears headed into a major showdown when it goes to the Senate for enactment this Thursday on the heels of strong lobbying against the proposal. Senators yesterday began deliberating on the bill passed by the House of Representatives two weeks ago, but they have yet to reach an agreement on how to deal with the controversial issue. Senate Floor leader Pete P. Reyes said he would push for the passage of House Bill 11-315 and drum up support from his colleagues as he reiterated the need to revive the local economy amid the serious financial shape of the island government.

PSS makes 10 pct. salary cuts

The Public School System announced a 9-10 percent salary cuts yesterday to live within a 13.4 percent reduction in its general budget. And while PSS assured that there would be no layoffs, it nevertheless ordered notices to be sent out to employees with incomplete contracts in what was construed as a gesture of notifying them of release if funds fell short. "I have no more good news for us," Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos told school principals yesterday in a meeting. Inos said the pay cuts would spare no one, including herself. A squeeze in government funds forced a cutback of the school system's budget from \$42 million to \$38 million for fiscal 1999.

Dec. 1, 1999

Food Council to campaign vs betel nut chewing with tobacco

The CNMI Food and Nutrition Council will carry out more educational campaign against mixing tobacco with betel nut for children in the next millennium, according to Pamela Mathis, Council's board chair. In a recent meeting, the board of directors has expressed concern on the effect of using tobacco which is illegal for persons under 18 years of age due to the risks of having oral cancer (disease related to gums and mouth). As far as adults are concerned, chewing betel nut with tobacco is a choice they have made. But since children cannot make an educated decision on this issue, the Council believes that it has to take a strong stand against the practice of mixing tobacco with betel nut.

CNMI gets \$137K more in tobacco money

The Northern Marianas has been awarded \$137,531.25 in attorney's fees and costs as part of its efforts in the massive tobacco settlement litigation, according to acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara. This is on top of the \$16 million share the CNMI has been granted under the \$206-billion master tobacco settlement agreement reached last year with cigarette manufacturers in exchange for dropping of the lawsuits over health costs on treating sick smokers. In a statement released yesterday, Ms. Kara said the award of attorney's fees and costs is meant to compensate the Commonwealth for its part in the class action suit initiated by state governments across the nation.

Dec. 1, 2000

Budget battle continues

The chair of the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday lashed out at the Senate's insistence to press earmarking of \$2 million for payment of so-called retroactive pay of government employees, saying this is mere "politicking." Instead, Rep. Antonio M. Camacho prodded senators to pass legislation he sponsored that will give option to those eligible under Public Law 7-31 to convert such payment to their retirement benefits. "If we have the money, we will pay the retroactive pay but the way the budget works, it seems that they use the issue to promote their own programs," he told reporters in an interview.

MTC changes name to Verizon

Today marks an important day for the employees and customers of Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation and GTE Pacifica, both in the CNMI and Guam as the telecommunications company launches its new corporate name—Verizon. MTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of former telecom giant GTE, which completed a merger with Bell Atlantic in August 2000. The merged companies formed a new company called Verizon, resulting in one of the largest telecom companies in the United States. MTC and its subsidiary company GTE Pacifica's launching of their Verizon identity today will come along an aggressive nationwide campaign, which will also begin to air on Dec. 1, 2000.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 286Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Capitalism: A modest reappraisal

By CHRIS GAY
THE FREE LANCE-STAR (FREDERICKSBURG, VA.)

NEW YORK—Capitalism has long been a problematic idea in certain leftish quarters, but these days, many say, it's beyond repair. "Capitalism, in the last year, has proven that it's failed," filmmaker Michael Moore told Larry King a year ago. In a recent Pew survey of Americans, only 29 percent of respondents reacted positively to the word "socialism," but a surprisingly slim majority—52 percent—responded positively to "capitalism." The website Social-istAlternative.org recently declared that "capitalism isn't working."

Isn't it? That depends on what you mean by "working." To judge something a failure is to presume some clear definition of success. Maybe Mr. Moore subscribes to the wrong definition. Maybe alternative socialists need to rethink capitalism, and maybe they can start with a simple question: What is a free-enterprise system supposed to achieve, anyway?

Any barstool economist can field that one: It's supposed to raise living standards, via the magic of Adam Smith's "invisible hand"—that insensate, paradoxical process by which the pursuit of individual advantage aggregates to the general welfare. When rational, unconstrained individuals focus on their own material gain, they inadvertently induce efficiencies that raise productivity and enrich the nation. Efficiency is the key. Efficiency is the difference between Silicon Valley and Somalia. People's Republics are criminal and sclerotic. Social democracies are safe but boring. Market economies are efficient.

But admit it. There's something about the "e" word that reminds you of a Woodstock reunion: It's nice on paper but horrifying up close. After all, Universal Consolidated Manufacturing Co. (UConMan) was acting efficiently when it laid you off from your forklift job so that management could get its bonuses. So was the health insurer that dropped-kicked you out of the risk pool because your house cat disclosed a pre-existing condition. So, for that matter, was the loan originator who bamboozled you into an adjustable-rate, no-doc mortgage that later got sold to your pension plan.

This seems like a good place to paraphrase Lily Tomlin: If efficiency is the answer, can we reword the question?

Yes We Can. Forget Adam Smith and think Gordon Gekko. Let's posit that free enterprise exists not so that allocative efficiency can improve the general welfare but so that enterprising individuals can efficiently advance their own interests—or maximize their "utility," as economists put it—in ways that don't necessarily maximize yours. Because a few people are smarter, or just luckier, than everybody else, inequality of outcome is inevitable, even virtuous, in the free-enterprise poker game. So what if all the chips end up in one pile? As long as everyone knows the rules, that's as legitimate as any other outcome, right?

If we drop the assumption that Wall Street exists to benefit anyone other than Wall Street, can we still assert that Wall Street has failed us? We could ask the same of the whole chain of rational, efficient actors—subprime borrowers, mortgage originators, auto-pilot rating agencies, speculating house-flippers—who created the credit crisis. By the Gekko standard, all of them did exactly what they were supposed to do, pursuing their own interests to some practical limit.

If a whole economic system operates by the same standard (a Gekkonomy?), can it ever "fail"? So long as buyers meet sellers and fools meet greater fools, isn't any market outcome by definition the optimal outcome?

You might answer that AIG, for one, was not acting rationally or efficiently when one weighs the systemic risks of the leverage it was carrying. Fair point, you socialist insect. But think a moment: If AIG had considered anything beyond its own bottom

See CAPITALISM on Next Page



China and Columbus' cloudy cumulus on climate change

By JAIME R VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

OK. We are being alliteratively playful here with words on China-US relationship on climate change. It is not a laughing matter but *Pinoy*s have a propensity to resign on the tickle when confronted with deep and dire issues.

Walking the pathway with a Chinese colleague a few years back, our co-walker used to complain about the odorous carbon monoxide fumes from too numerous smoke-belching vehicles plying Beach Road, so we shifted to the *Mei Guo Gong Yuen* (AMP) grounds. What I did not make clear was that the carbon content of the air is similar there as well, with winds from *Dong Bei* and even Shanghai delivering the effluent from industrial plants in their environs.

We sit comfortably on Saipan not too overly worried about climate warming since we have overwhelming contradictions on our economic base that is best dealt with by fiddling with political expedencies, or live off our capital in blissful denial as we grasp in earnest our piece of the soon-to-be exhausted pie.

But then we are Americans, and the federal government since Bill Clinton signed the Kyoto Protocol, has been, at best, on a wait-and-see policy, with Congress deciding not to ratify the treaty, and the nation now allowing the unsecured Federal Reserve to increase money supply in a masterful public relations' gimmick of "qualitative easing" economic stimulus.

In one of the global conferences, as the U.S. delegate indecisively hee'd and haw'd, one exasperated participant diplomatically informed the delegation of his country's appreciation of Uncle Sam's leadership elsewhere, but if it was not going to be on the forefront on mitigating climate warming, would it please "get out of the way."

Consequently, the EU picked up climate change as a core issue in its international relations, supported by public opinion on environmental issues and its preference for multilateralism. As the U.S. refused to negotiate targets on George Bush's policy of U.S. unilateral action, on the war on terror as well as other global issues, and in its paranoia, even spying on its own allies and the United Nations, promoting international agreements on climate became by default the provenance of the European Union and China.

Tianjin this month hosted the UN's weeklong talks to prepare for the Cancun gathering aiming to step out further than the Copenhagen Accord, and to anticipate promulgating legally binding measures at the UN Bali Conference 2011. Heretofore, China has refused to abide by the UN emissions decision-making process, for though it is in accord with UN policies, it wants to be judged on its internal targets rather than those externally imposed by others.

The United States and China constitute 40 percent of the world's carbon emissions, with the U.S. historically getting a head start in emitting hers during her rapid industrialization in the last century, with effects already evident in pollution residues trapped

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan TribuneVergara is a regular contributor to the
Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

in melting waters in the Tibetan highlands; China adding hers particularly its heated economy the decades prior and after the millennial turn that has contributed to the excessive pumping of deep water in the grasslands and plains, encroaching desertification in Inner Mongolia, and the country's continuing reliance on coal to meet its power requirements.

As the most populated and fastest growing economy of developing countries, China's environmental policy and attitude with regard to climate change became increasingly scrutinized. In 2008, it surpassed the U.S. in CO2 emissions, and is frequently demonized for its dirty growth model and its global consequences. China's investments in green energy is double that of the U.S. and has developed significant policies to address climate and energy issues. Whatever baby steps so far undertaken by governments at the global policy level is largely a convergence of policies between the EU and China.

On the other hand, Obama's presence in Copenhagen was not enough to counter cynicism over America's inability to act. To borrow sports imagery expressed by Jake Schmidt, global climate policy director for the U.S.-based Natural Resources Defense Council, "The Chinese are out of the starting blocks and the United States is still taking off its sweatshirt."

But the American democratic experiment will not be deterred. In this page, we are continually reminded that what is not specifically spelled out in the U.S. Constitution as a federal responsibility is open to initiatives from the State and local levels. The record will show that after the Kyoto Protocol, several States and communities went ahead with their own programs to shift into green energy and green economics, affecting personal habits in such areas as waste disposal, power and water consumption, to State investments in innovative technologies. It will be an awakened grassroots, as the tea party has ironically demonstrated in spite of its negating bent, that will jolt the liberal but indecisive bureaucrats who staff our federal offices.

China's Premier Wen Jiabao recently commented that with economic progress must come a corresponding movement in the political realm, a more enlightened and participative citizenry. In a CCTV program on dialogue, the announcer says, "Ideas are important, but truth is more critical." That is a slogan applicable anywhere in the world, and a clear perception of truth and lucidity on reality knows no government levels.

We will overcome.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In the comfort of our own creations

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

In the comfort of our creations
we often find ourselves at rest
Content to laze away our lives
without the urge to do what's best

In circumstances of our choosing
or as they say "the bed we've made"
We dread the days and damn the drama
and often wonder why we've stayed

In teapot tempests of our own stirring
we spin and ask, "when will it all end?"
And long for days of inner calm
or seek saviors 'round the bend

This life we live is like a picture
with scenes we brush from head and heart

When once you recognize the painter
your days become like works of art!

The world you live in is like a picture; a canvas upon which you have held the creator's brush all these years. Despite appearances to the contrary, it's not a tacky "B" movie into which you've been cast against your will. Who you are and the scenes that unfold are a direct outcome of decisions you've made given who you were at those moments.

Denying your part in the drama that unfolds and refusing to move to safer more nurturing quarters is the recipe for continued heartache.

Here's how it usually works: You choose from a place of awareness and then move forward to another scene. Soon, the choices you made in Act 1 no longer serve you in Act 2. Since life won't allow you to go back and re-shoot the first act. Your only option is to make new decisions based on who you are NOW in Act 2. However, many of us get trapped forever living out our Act 1 choices fearing to make new decisions simply because of the comfort factor. We hate the place we are, but are fearful of change simply because we've gotten comfortable.

Even if we're in pain, it's such a familiar pain that we often choose to remain in the "comfort of our own creations" even when it ceases to support us in our growth.

The trick, therefore, is first to acknowledge your part in the drama, see yourself as the painter/director, forgive yourself for our earlier choices, then make new decisions from a now (hopefully) healthier mental space. Don't get trapped in the comfort.

Looking ahead to 2012

The dust has settled down around the battleground of the recent non-voting delegate contest. I'm sure that incumbents and other aspirants have been sniffing the scene intermittently if only to figure out likely political alignments for 2012. Fiscal disaster, loss of family homes, insufficient scholarship funds, and an impending birth of a wasteland of unemployment all occupy their minds. And there isn't any easy answers either.

Obviously, the filthy scent blows wildly in the evening air right smack in the midst of the worsening fiscal disaster. It calls for real credentials beyond the usual dosage that usually shield behind tons of "biba." One must be conversant with issues or engage in "educated" discussions. Or be ready to exercise principle-based representation rather than seeking to park it in an escrow with tails tucked between weak-kneed legs.

The queries governance would demand include: Would Lang and his fragile majority return once more? Or would governance repudiate their seesaw agenda between casino and MJ legislation? Would the GOP find muster to return to dominance or is the last election an indication of a disintegrated bunch? Are the Democrats anywhere in sight to try for seats in the impending contests? Regardless of political persuasion, it seems very untimely and even unwise to flaunt being an incumbent.

It would be one hard sale for the ruling majority to retain its seats beginning with 2012. Kilili routed them in the recent contest that started the disintegration of the powers that be. That verdict has governance declaring, "No Mas!" I also keep hearing a familiar chorus:

Not after students on scholarship were placed on the "delayed" list that forced some to pull out this semester for inability to meet tuition and other payments.

Not after family pocketbooks were shredded by 20 percent work hour reduction that sent them reeling to meet real estate and other basic obligations, unsuccessfully.

Not with a huge utility surcharge that takes a good chunk of family income.

Not when the price of food would increase by April of next year, not to mention the recent increase when federal minimum wage went up.

Not when the promise to leave home feet first have been rendered foreclosure by the banks.

Not when there's fear and uncertainty of a likely layoffs anytime in the near term when revenues plunge further.

Not when there's the obvious lack of leadership to regroup and re-chart the future of the NMI.

Not when the only answer you've given is more borrowing to increase deficit spending, placing the burden on the shoulders of our children. We don't recall voting for more deficit spending!

Furthermore, governance has the sole right of oversight on the conduct of public officials, including booting them from office for not doing what's right. This is an evolution in progress and will intensify as we move into the future.

Incumbent politicians may attempt hysteria versus facts to camouflage the persistent devastation of income to meet family obliga-

tions. But the parade of draconian issues slicing huge cuts in the purchasing power of families isn't going to neutralize the factual miseries of governance. More vacuous rhetoric out on the campaign trail isn't going to cut it either.

As we casually ponder on the qualifications of candidates, ask yourself: Do you want more of the same or shouldn't we fill the two chambers with folks who have at least some real business experience? This should enable them to work up fully thought-out economic recovery plans. What would those plans entail? Would candidates be conversant discussing these plans? Or would they be groping for words hoping the longest three minutes of their lives ends instantly to avoid any further critical scrutiny or review by governance?

Would candidates address affordable homes issue? What's the major deterrent in this program? Would they have answers to this issue? Would they be willing to openly discuss them in hopes of resolving difficulties with this issue? Or would they avoid it, hoping to sneak into one of two chambers without notice?

Would you folks openly discuss five years of non-existence of the Civil Service Commission board and why it hasn't been constituted? Who then has stood and advocated for the rights of civil servants? Would you still advocate the so-called excepted service contracts that that pays handsomely even without real qualifications? How do you assist the NMI Retirement Fund get back on its feet?

Would political aspirants listen to the private sector to hear their voice on taxes, economic plans, government cost cutting measures, etc.? Or would they be shoved aside in favor of milking them further beyond common decency with more thoughtless taxes? Aren't they our real and lifetime partners to building a prosperous future for the NMI? Why would we continue treating them like lepers?

We have scholarship programs and if we're sending 1,000 to 2,000 scholars annually to colleges and universities abroad, shouldn't the right hand work in concert with the left hand to plan future jobs for returning scholars? Or do we leave them with the usual "sink or swim" attitude as we've done over the last 60 years? These and other issues should fill the heads of tired incumbents and aspirants who are willing to brave a political landscape that has become difficult to tread without fully reasoned plans.

Of broken promises

Sometimes it's hard to leave well enough alone, or to get out of the way when your enemy is busy destroying himself. There's usually a temptation to help. But stay out of it you've nothing to lose, though you might profit by simply keeping your ears to the ground.

Politicians have been scrubbing their leper-like scars, preparing for the midterm election of 2012. Either that or they'd be spreading hysteria. It is always more fun than dealing with facts and government bureaucracies share their DNA with sharks. Bureaucrats, like the great whites, have to consume, to snatch sustenance when and where they find it, or die. The search for something on which to feed on is constant, and hysteria is the most reliable bait. Enough of tired, happy hour fodder!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*.

Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now lives a nomadpreneur lifestyle. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com.

■ ■ ■ ■

Note: Where will YOUR passion take you? What sort of life would you live if you could? Find out what's possible. Check out my new adventures on jamaicaninchina.com.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

CAPITALISM

From Page 10

line, it would have been irrational and inefficient, no? Indeed, it had a fiduciary obligation to ignore societal implications. Any other approach would have been inadmissible in the Court of Shareholder Value.

Citigroup CEO Chuck Prince put it rather nicely: "As long as the music is playing, you've got to get up and dance." And any regulation that tried to stop the music would have been nanny-state meddling that can only—wait for it—"get in the way."

So, problem solved. All is as it should be. There is no failure if you reframe the question, because the question is a bull's eye that you paint around the arrow. The trick is to tweak the theory so that it neutralizes the facts. See how that works?

Liberals might have been gobsacked by the crisis, but conservatives have no excuse. This, after all, is the world they bargained for. Years before Lehman careened into the ditch, conservatives were fighting tooth and nail to repeal the speed limits, privatize the stoplights, and reconfigure the streets so that the sidewalks became HOV lanes. By 1996, they had succeeded to the point where George F. Will could issue this priceless jewel of laissez-faire triumphalism:

"America's economy involves uncountable billions of daily decisions by hundreds of millions of Americans. America's economy is influenced by uncountable trillions of daily decisions by producers and consumers of goods and services around the world. America's economy is not in any meaningful sense 'handled' by anyone. Such talk encourages what needs to be constantly discouraged—the hubris of government and its delusions of mastery. America is—always has been—on a high-speed ride. But there is no driver. Never has been. That's the nature of a free society."

Of course, it's also the nature of joy-riding frat boys after a kick-ass keg party, but when you put it that way it's like you hate freedom or something.

So get over your angst and enjoy the ride. Embrace insecurity. Celebrate volatility. Uncertainty is your friend and risk is its godchild. Adam Smith never promised you a rose garden. Even if he had, Gordon Gekko would have flipped it.

Chris Gay writes occasionally for The Free Lance-Star in Fredericksburg, Va. Readers may send him e-mail at cgay88@verizon.net.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° |

| Micronesia | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------|--|
| Guam and Rota | Thundershowers | ▲88 ▼80 | |
| Palau | Rain | ▲86 ▼78 | |
| Yap | Showers | ▲88 ▼78 | |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | ▲84 ▼78 | |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲86 ▼74 | |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲85 ▼76 | |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲83 ▼75 | |

| Around The Globe | | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------|--|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | ▲69 ▼59 | |
| Beijing | Windy | ▲45 ▼23 | |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | ▲81 ▼57 | |
| Honolulu | Showers | ▲82 ▼72 | |
| London | Ice | ▲35 ▼24 | |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲68 ▼49 | |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲88 ▼76 | |
| Melbourne | Showers | ▲80 ▼59 | |
| Miami | Thundershowers | ▲81 ▼59 | |
| New York | Rain | ▲59 ▼35 | |
| Osaka | Showers | ▲61 ▼52 | |
| Paris | Snow | ▲26 ▼21 | |
| Pusan | Showers | ▲63 ▼44 | |
| Rome | Showers | ▲59 ▼47 | |
| Salem | Showers | ▲47 ▼39 | |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲62 ▼49 | |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | ▲57 ▼30 | |
| Tokyo | Showers | ▲60 ▼52 | |
| Washington, DC | Rain | ▲59 ▼35 | |

| Tides | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|
| Saipan Harbor | | | |
| 3:35 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.4 Feet |
| 9:10 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.7 Feet |
| 3:29 PM | Today | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet |
| 10:39 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet |



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N150E to beyond 18N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of the shear line. Scattered showers southwest of Koror are southwest of a line from 6N130E to EQ135E. Divergence associated with an upper-level low centered near 8N147E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Chuuk and Pohnpei in an area from 11N153E to 6N158E to 4N151E back to 11N153E. A surface trough curving across the Marshall Islands from 4N164E to 9N179E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 7N167E to 7N175E.

| Sunrise/Sunset | | | Moonrise/Moonset | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:27 AM | 5:45 PM | Today | 1:45 AM | 1:53 PM |
| Thursday | 6:27 AM | 5:45 PM | Thursday | 2:43 AM | 2:39 PM |
| Friday | 6:28 AM | 5:45 PM | Friday | 3:42 AM | 3:27 PM |
| Saturday | 6:29 AM | 5:45 PM | Saturday | 4:42 AM | 4:19 PM |
| Sunday | 6:29 AM | 5:46 PM | Sunday | 5:43 AM | 5:15 PM |

| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010 | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|--------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| DEPARTURES | | | ARRIVALS | | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM | | | GUAM-SAIPAN | | |
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily | C09316 | 2:45am 3:35am |
| C09313 | 7:55am | 8:45am | 3, 6 | C09596 | 6:35am 7:25am |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C09596 | 7:00am 7:50am |
| C09601 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | C09600 | 10:05am 10:55am |
| C09603 | 3:05pm | 3:55pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C09602 | 1:40pm 2:30pm |
| C09605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily | C09604 | 5:00pm 5:50pm |
| C09599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily | C09606 | 8:00pm 8:50pm |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | |
| DL287 | 6:10am | 8:45am | Daily | DL298 | 10:25am 3:05pm |
| DL285 | 6:40am | 9:15am | Daily | DL286 | 3:50pm 8:25pm |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:15pm | Daily | DL288 | 8:00pm 12:30am+1 |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | |
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 | OZ607 | 9:10pm 2:20am+1 |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | |
| OZ604 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 | OZ605 | 9:00am 2:20pm |
| OZ604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | OZ603 | 7:40pm 1:00am+1 |
| OZ606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 | OZ603 | 8:10pm 1:30am+1 |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | |
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 | FM843 | 7:15pm 1:50am+1 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | |
| OZ604/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN | OZ704/605 | 12:10am 2:20pm |
| OZ604/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | DL172/286 | 7:55am 8:25pm |
| C09317/891 | 2:45am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM | C0890/9606 | 10:55am 8:50pm |
| DL285/173 | 6:40am | 10:15pm | Daily via NRT | OZ702/603 | 1:10pm 1:00am+1 |
| C09313/933 | 7:55am | 9:40pm | 6 via GUM | OZ702/603 | 1:10pm 1:30am+1 |
| C09313/893 | 7:55am | 11:00pm | 3 via GUM+Palau | C0892/9596 | 10:25pm 7:25am+1 |
| C09603/933 | 3:05pm | 9:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM | C0892/9596 | 10:25pm 7:50am+1 |
| C09603/893 | 3:05pm | 11:00pm | 5 via GUM+Palau | PR110/C0596 | 10:00pm 7:25am+1 |
| C09605/933 | 6:20pm | 9:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM | C0934/9596 | 11:10pm 7:25am+1 |
| OZ606/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN | C0934/9596 | 11:10pm 7:50am+1 |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:30pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM | C0934/9596 | 11:59pm 7:25am+1 |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG | | | HONG KONG-SAIPAN | | |
| OZ604/721 | 2:10am | 12:00am | 1 via ICN | OZ724/605 | 12:30am 2:20pm |
| OZ604/721 | 2:40am | 12:00am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | OZ722/603 | 1:30pm 1:00am+1 |
| C09603/909 | 3:05pm | 10:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM | OZ722/603 | 1:30pm 1:30am+1 |
| OZ606/723 | 3:20pm | 10:35pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | C0910/9596 | 11:15pm 7:50am+1 |
| Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.) | | | | | |

| FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 113 | 11:40 |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily | FRE 115 | 13:00 |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 117 | 14:30 |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 119 | 16:00 |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 121 | 16:40 |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily | FRE 123 | 17:40 |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 125 | 18:30 |
| FRE 400 | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily | Tinian-Saipan | |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 102 | 7:05 |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | FRE 104 | 7:50 |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 106 | 8:20 |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily | FRE 108 | 9:00 |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 110 | 10:00 |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | FRE 112 | 11:05 |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 114 | 12:00 |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 116 | 13:30 |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 118 | 14:50 |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 120 | 16:20 |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 122 | 17:00 |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | FRE 124 | 18:05 |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | FRE 126 | 18:50 |

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Hotel occupancy at 54 pct. in October 2010

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 54 percent occupancy among its 12 member hotels for October 2010, a 13-percent increase from October 2009.

A total of 38,901 of 71,455 available room nights were sold in October 2010, compared to 31,129 of 75,640

available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were \$89.17 during the month, compared to \$87.52 last October.

"Tourism is the only potential industry to generate more revenue for the Northern Marianas, and we urge the CNMI government to support

tourism seriously through the Marianas Visitors Authority. Otherwise, the name of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Marianas will disappear from the wholesale market," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. "We need effective promotions."

So far this year, hotel occu-

pancy is at an average 63 percent, well below the healthy industry indicator average of 80 percent and 1 percent lower than last year.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the CNMI. (HANMI)

Cepeda promoted, wins 'Soldier of the Year' tilt

Kelvin Matagolai Cepeda of the U.S. Army, who recently won a Soldier of the Year competition, was promoted to sergeant on Nov. 1, 2010.

Cepeda is currently deployed in Iraq with the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, an aviation unit from Fort Riley, Kansas.

While deployed in Iraq, Cepeda, who held a specialist rank at the time, competed with six soldiers from his battalion and won the Soldier of the Year competition held on Sept. 29, 2010.

After his promotion to sergeant, Cepeda was chosen to participate in the NCO (non-commissioned officer) of the Year competition held on Nov. 7 in Camp Taji, where 60 other deployed U.S. troops were tested in a full spectrum of combat skill challenges. Cepeda was one of the brigade's top five competitors.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Thomson, the senior NCO for the brigade, "Today's competition was put together



Sgt. Kelvin Cepeda receives the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer plaque from Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Wood of 3-1 Assault Helicopter Battalion.

to select the NCO and the Soldier of the year for 2010 for the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade. We've got over 4,000 soldiers in this brigade, and we wanted to do something that was challenging and fun that would select the best of the best."

On Nov. 20, Cepeda was also a part of the brigade's first graduating class from the Demon Academy, a seven-day program designed to develop the full spectrum of leadership skills for future noncommissioned officers. Soldiers attending the academy are taught and mentored in both combat and non-combat aspects of military leadership. Classes include physical fitness, communication skills, resiliency training, risk management, weapons training, leadership philosophies, map reading, and military history.

Cepeda is the son of the late Luis M. Cepeda (Apong) and Guadalupe M. Cepeda. He is married to Lei Ogumoro-Ulung and has a son, Kelvin D. Cepeda Jr. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's next general membership meeting will be held today, Dec. 1, at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom. Guest speaker at the meeting will be Capt. Herman Awai, Commodore of COMPSRON 3, the preposition ships off Saipan's western shore. Commodore Awai will talk about Maritime Preposition Ships Squadron 3 capabilities, mission and community relations. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for general public. (SCC)

Austerity Fridays for govt sports facilities

All CNMI-owned sports facility (Ada Gym) and other sports grounds (basketball court and baseball fields) under the DCCA-Division of Sports and Recreation will be closed every austerity Friday.

Sports organizations (private or government leagues), NMASA, and DS&R staff are urged to coordinate with DS&R director Joe A. Lizama or his staff to accommodate any planned events as not to conflict with this directive.

Also, the Francisco Palacios baseball field and the Miguel Pangelinan ball field will be closed for field preparation and maintenance beginning Dec 20, 2010.

Sports organizations are also urged to submit their (tentative) 2011 calendar of events via email at gymsport@pticom.com or fax at 664-2510

For more information, contact Lizama at 664-2508. (PR)

DEQ brigade sets Hidden Beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's monthly cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Hidden Beach in Talafofu.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representative on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010, at 8am at the entrance to King Fisher Golf.

Volunteers will split into groups and clean North and South Beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches. For more information about volunteering, contact DEQ at 664-8500/1. (DEQ)

Quiz Night 2010 on Friday

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be hosting the "Quiz Night 2010" on Friday, Dec. 3, 2010, to raise awareness of autism and raise funds for the Society.

Quiz Night is a fundraising event where teams of 7 (5 people and 2 substitutes) compete in a fun trivia-based game. If you don't have a team, we will be able to assemble a team for you at the event.

The event will take place at the Saipan World Resort, from 6pm to 10pm. It will cost \$100 per team of 5 (with 2 alternates) or \$15 per person. Buffet is included!

To purchase a ticket, donate or sponsor, contact any of the following:

- ASCNMI - 235-7273 or as_cnmi@yahoo.com
- Barbara Merfalen - 989-2627
- Larrisa Larson - 287-4899
- Tom Thornburgh - 287-9205
- Jan Reyes - 287-8350

Educational assistance program deadlines for Winter/Spring 2010

Application deadline for new or returning applicants: Dec. 15, 2010 (For those who submitted an application for fall term 2010, they do not have to reapply for Winter/Spring term)

Deadline for supporting documents: Feb. 28, 2011

For more information call 664-4750/52 or visit www.cnmischolarship.com. (PR)

SHRM presents 'The CNMI Prevailing Wage System'

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will be hosting a special half-day membership meeting on "The CNMI Prevailing Wage System" this Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010. The speakers will be William Rabung of the U. S. Department of Labor's Employment Training Administration (Washington D.C.) via live video teleconference, and Gary Hiles of the Guam Department of Labor.

The lunch meeting will be held at Northern Marianas College in room D-1 (across the NMC Bookstore) on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010, from 8:30am - 11:30am. The seminar includes breakfast and refreshments and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly DLG Masga at 237-5122 or e-mail her at polldlg@gmail.com. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WORLD-CLASS

Congratulations to the G4S Security CNMI Team for successfully completing the Certified Lodging from the American Hotel Lodging Association. Recognized worldwide, G4S is proud to present this level of experience to its customers.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



"A one-year-old child is so many things: A tiny discoverer of butterfly wings, a hugger of Teddies, a sweet sleepyhead, and someone to dream for in bright years ahead!" Happy first birthday to our sunshine, Christopher Junior Sablan "Jun Jun"! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Liyah, Nasia, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A very happy birthday to Christian Delos Santos! Greetings come from mom Ellen, sis Savannah, and the NO KA OI staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Birthday to my nephew Jacody Lizama Charfauros who turns 8 years old on Dec. 1, 2010. From: Grandma, Mom, Dad, Jayvan, Joseph, your sisters, and the family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to D'Ana Jacqueline San Nicolas Teregeyo, who celebrated her birthday on Nov. 30, 2010! We love you. Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy and the family.

Business

Continental's domestic first class named best overall in Zagat airline survey

CHICAGO—Continental Airlines was named the Top Rated Large Domestic Airline for Premium Seating in Zagat's 2010 Airline Survey for the third consecutive year.

"We take great pride in giving our first-class customers an award-winning inflight product," said Marketing Sr. VP Mark Bergsrud. "Those polled by Zagat made an average of more than 17 flights per year, and we are honored by the recognition of those frequent flyers."

Continental also received high marks from Zagat in the following categories: Economy Seating, Best In-Flight Entertainment (domestic), Top Frequent Flier Program (international), Best Value (domestic and international), Best Consumer On-Time Estimates (domestic), Best Luggage Policy (domestic) and Best Check-in Experience (online tools, curbside service, ticketing kiosks and terminal agents.)

The Zagat 2010 Airline Survey covers 16 domestic and 74 international airlines, as well as 30 domestic airports. The survey incorporates the opinions of more than 8,000 frequent fliers and travel professionals (e.g. travel agents) who collectively took 139,300 flights in the past year.

Continental Airlines is a wholly owned subsidiary of United Continental Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: UAL). Continental, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 2,400 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 142 domestic and 131 international destinations. Continental is a member of Star Alliance, which overall offers 21,000 daily flights to 1,160 airports in 181 countries. Continental has hubs serving Cleveland, Guam, Houston and New York/Newark Liberty, and together with its regional partners, carries approximately 63 million passengers per year.

United Continental Holdings, Inc. became the holding company for both United and Continental upon close of the merger transaction. The two airlines will operate separately as they begin to integrate key customer services, marketing activities and airport processes. For more company information, go to continental.com and follow on Twitter and Facebook. (PR)

Sales could top \$1B on a manic Cyber Monday

NEW YORK (AP)—Cyber Monday started as a gimmick to get people to shop at their desks on the first workday after Thanksgiving. But if you promote something enough, it can take on a life of its own.

This year, stores swamped customers with online ads and e-mail deals, and sales could top \$1 billion, making it bigger than any single shopping day last year.

Online sales were already running 15 percent ahead of last year's by 3 p.m. Monday, with the biggest shopping hours of the day still to come, according to IBM's Coremetrics tracking service.

"The numbers are really strong," said the service's chief strategy officer, John Squire, who added that he expects Cyber Monday to be the biggest online shopping day of the season.

The Monday after Thanksgiving was dubbed Cyber Monday by the National Retail Federation trade group in 2005 to describe the unofficial kickoff to the online shopping season. The idea was that people returning to work after the long weekend would shop at their desks.

It never really was the busiest online shopping day of the year. But like any good marketing angle, it spawned imitation. Nearly 90 percent of U.S. retailers offered some kind of Cyber Monday promotion this year, targeting shoppers who didn't want to venture out at 4 a.m. for those in-store deals. In 2007, 72 percent offered a Cyber Monday promotion.

"Retailers are doing everything they can to build up and extend the event aspect of it—tweeting deals every hour, running Cyber Monday ads—like it's such a big thing you can't miss out on," said Stacy Landreth Grau, associate professor of marketing at Texas Christian University's Neeley School of Business.

Rachel Bergman, general manager of e-mail marketing service Experian CheetahMail, said this year the company sent out several hundred million Cyber Monday promotional e-mails, 40 percent more than last year—on behalf of clients like Borders, J. Jill and Bass Pro Shops.

Prevent discrimination and harassment

Question: I understand that you do EEO training. What does my company have to do to stay out of EEO trouble?

Yes, I do provide EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) and sexual harassment training, among other Human Resource services. I will not be able to give you a full four hour program in this column, but I can at least get you pointed in the right direction.


First, you have to commit yourself, the company and its management and staff, to creating and maintaining a non-discriminatory and non-harassing workplace. The most important things that you can do are preventive in nature. After all, the EEO violation that never happens is one that you don't have to deal with—no discrimination or harassment means no unhappy employee, no time-consuming internal investigation, no disruption to your workplace, no unpleasant termination or other disciplinary action, no EEO Commission charge and external investigation, no court case, no fine and no penalties. Now, doesn't prevention sound much better than the opposing alternatives?

So, how do you prevent violations? First—you make sure that all employment decisions—from job advertisement and selection, to promotions, assignments, overtime and workload, to termination—are based upon objective and work-related criteria and not on any discriminatory or subjective

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 14 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.



is reached in each case. Take corrective action as appropriate to the violation and the determination of the investigation. Make sure that the complainant is aware of the results of the investigation and the action taken.

- Maintain confidentiality to the greatest extent possible. This means the complainant, the accused, witnesses and the investigator. Remind each at the end of the interview. Failure to maintain confidentiality could result in retaliation or other employees being unwilling to come forward with problems.
- Watch out for and prevent retaliation against the complainant or anyone involved in the complaint/investigation process. Retaliation is a form of discrimination.
- Provide training to all employees, both management and staff, so that they know what comprises discrimination and harassment, know that the company will not allow it in any form, know how to recognize it and prevent it, and know their rights and obligations.

It's important that those actions in the work place that can result in discrimination or harassment be stopped before that happens. Managers and supervisors must set the example in their actions and not condone or allow discrimination or harassment in their workplaces. I'm a firm believer in the value of training. The importance of education and awareness through training cannot be over-emphasized.

A word to employees—if you feel you are the victim of discrimination or harassment, go to your supervisor, manager or HR person for help. They are there to help, but if they don't know about it, they can't help you.

Let's end this discussion where it started. You asked how your company could avoid EEO problems. Prevent them from happening in the first place.


The information contained in this column is intended as general information only. Readers should obtain professional advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding human resource issues to hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com or editor@saipantribune.com.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama calls for 2-year freeze on federal pay
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Monday proposed a two-year freeze of the salaries of some 2 million federal workers, trying to seize the deficit-cutting initiative from Republicans with a sudden, dramatic stroke. Though signaling White House concern over record deficits, the freeze would make only a tiny dent in annual deficits or the nation's \$14 trillion debt. "Small businesses and families are tightening their belts," Obama said in brief remarks at the White House. "The government should, too." The administration said the plan was designed to save more than \$5 billion over the first two years. The proposal, which must be approved by Congress, would not apply to the military, but it would affect all others on the Executive Branch payroll. It would not affect members of Congress or their staffs, defense contractors, postal workers or federal court judges and workers.

Ireland's bailout boosts banks, inflames taxpayers
DUBLIN (AP)—Ireland's international bailout boosted its bank stocks Monday but outraged many hard-pressed taxpayers, who questioned why the government's pension reserves must be ravaged as part of a deal that burdens the whole country with the mistakes of a rich elite. Shares in Ireland's banks rose sharply as markets were encouraged by the bailout's immediate focus on injecting euro10 billion into the cash-strapped lenders out of a total of euro67.5 billion (\$89 billion) in loans. But the Irish were shocked by a key condition for the rescue—that the government use euro17.5 billion of its own cash and pension reserves to shore up its public finances, which have been overwhelmed by recession and exceptional costs of a runaway bank-bailout effort.

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|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <div>STOCK PORTFOLIO</div> <div></div> | LEADING INDICATORS | | | EXCHANGE RATES | | Hong Kong Dollar 7.7636 | | Philippine Peso 44.1500 | |
| | DOW 11,052.49 -39.51 -0.36% | S&P 1,187.76 0.00 0.00% | NASDAQ 2,525.22 -9.34 -0.37% | Australian Dollar 1.0366 | Indian Rupee 45.7925 | Indonesian Rupiah 9,025 | Japanese Yen 84.0735 | Singapore Dollar 1.3171 | South Korean Won 1,152.463 |
| | | | | British Pound 0.6405 | Malaysian Ringgit 3.1505 | Chinese Yuan 6.6693 | New Zealand Dollar 1.3350 | Swiss Franc 1.0003 | Taiwan Dollar 30.4790 |
| | | | | Canadian Dollar 1.0199 | | Euro 0.7551 | | Thailand Baht 30.2650 | |

Nation

US says leaks are a crime, threatens prosecution

WASHINGTON (AP)—Striking back, the Obama administration branded the WikiLeaks release of more than a quarter-million sensitive files an attack on the United States Monday and raised the prospect of criminal prosecutions in connection with the exposure. The Pentagon detailed new security safeguards, including restraints on small computer flash drives, to make it harder for any one person to copy and reveal so many secrets.

The young Army Pfc. suspected of stealing the diplomatic memos, many of them classified, and feeding them to WikiLeaks may have defeated Pentagon security systems using little more than a Lady Gaga CD and a portable computer memory stick.

The soldier, Bradley Manning, has not been charged in the latest release of internal U.S. government documents. But officials said he is the prime suspect partly because of his own description of how he pulled off a staggering heist of classified and restricted material.

"No one suspected a thing," Manning told a confidant afterward, according to a log of



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton makes a statement on the Wikileaks document release, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, at the State Department in Washington.

his computer chat published by Wired.com. "I didn't even have to hide anything."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asserted Monday that WikiLeaks acted illegally in posting the material. She said the administration was taking "aggressive steps to hold responsible those who stole this

information."

Attorney General Eric Holder said the government was mounting a criminal investigation, and the Pentagon was tightening access to information, including restricting the use of computer storage devices such as CDs and flash drives.

"This is not saber-rattling,"

Holder said. Anyone found to have broken American law "will be held responsible."

Holder said the latest disclosure, involving classified and sensitive State Department documents, jeopardized the security of the nation, its diplomats, intelligence assets and relationships with foreign governments.

A weary-looking Clinton agreed.

"I want you to know that we are taking aggressive steps to hold responsible those who stole this information," Clinton said. She spoke in between calls to foreign capitals to make amends for scathing and gossipy memos never meant for foreign eyes.

Manning is charged in military court with taking other classified material later published by the online clearinghouse WikiLeaks. It is not clear whether others such as WikiLeaks executives might be charged separately in civilian courts.

Clinton said the State Department was adding security protections to prevent another breach. The Pentagon, embarrassed by the apparent ease with which secret documents were passed to WikiLeaks, had detailed some of its new precautions Sunday.

Col. Dave Lapan, a Pentagon spokesman, said it was possible that many people could be held accountable if they were found to have ignored security protocols or somehow enabled the download without authorization.

N.O. officer says he burned body after Katrina

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A New Orleans police officer on trial for burning the body of a man who was fatally shot by a different officer testified Monday that he set the fire because he didn't want to let another corpse rot in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath.

"I was exposed to so much death, so many bodies," said Officer Gregory McRae, one of two officers charged with burning the body of 31-year-old Henry Glover in the back seat of a car on Sept. 2, 2005.

McRae said nobody ordered him to torch the car or Glover's body, and he denied setting the fire to cover up a police shooting. McRae said his decision was influenced by having seen other bodies floating in the flood waters that inundated New Orleans.

"I had seen enough bodies. I had seen enough rot," McRae said, choking up.

McRae says he now knows he has "done a wrong."

"If you had to do it again today, would you do it?" asked his attorney, Frank DeSalvo.

"No, sir," said McRae, one of five current or former officers on trial in federal court.

McRae and Lt. Dwayne Scheuermann are charged with burning Glover's body after David Warren, now a former officer, shot Glover outside a strip mall. McRae and Scheuermann also are charged with beating persons who, seeking help for Glover, drove him in a car to a school that police were using as a makeshift headquarters. McRae denied beating anyone at the school.

McRae said one of his superiors told him to move the Chevy Malibu containing Glover's body away from the school, but he testified the fire was his idea.

After driving the car over a nearby Mississippi River levee and into a wooded area, McRae said he tossed a flare into the car and started to walk away. Not seeing any flames, McRae said he shot out the rear window of the car to ventilate it. Only then did the car start to burn, he said.

McRae said Scheuermann had followed him to the levee in a truck but didn't know he would burn the car. Scheuermann asked him why he had set



New Orleans police officer Gregory McRae, who is charged with burning the body 31 year old Henry Glover and assaulting people trying to help Glover, after he was allegedly fatally shot by police in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, leaves Federal Court in New Orleans, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010.

the car on fire, McRae said. He recalled saying something like, "I wasn't going to let it rot."

"He seemed shocked," McRae said of Scheuermann, who hasn't testified.

U.S. District Judge Lance Africk pressed McRae to explain his actions.

"I had reached a point, your honor, where I was tired of smelling putrid human rotten flesh," he said.

Another officer, Lt. Joseph Meisch, has testified that he saw McRae laughing after he burned the car—a claim McRae denied.

During a prosecutor's cross-examination, McRae said he knows burning a body can hamper a homicide investigation. But he insisted that that wasn't on his mind when he burned Glover's. His cross-examination is expected to resume Tuesday.

Chief: Armed student in Wis. high school shot self

MARINETTE, Wis. (AP)—A student armed with a handgun held nearly two dozen students and a teacher hostage in a Wisconsin high school for about five hours before shooting himself when police broke into the classroom, authorities said Monday. No other injuries were reported.

Officers who were outside the Marinette High School classroom said they heard three gunshots shortly after 8 p.m. and busted through the door, said Police Chief Jeff Skorik said. The 15-year-old male gunman then shot himself.

Skorik said the teen was taken to an area hospital and his condition was not immediately known Monday night.

Officials earlier had said there were no reports of shots fired, but student Zach Campbell said he and his classmates had been watching a film about Greek myths at the end of the school day when the hostage-taker pulled out a gun and shot the projector. He then fired another shot.

"It was a very scary event," Campbell said. The teen made students put their cell phones in the middle of the room and broke his own phone when it rang. The class then spent six hours talking to him about hunting and fishing.

"We just wanted to be on his good side," Campbell said. He said the gunmen seemed depressed. "But he didn't really seem like he

wanted to hurt anybody."

Campbell was among five students who were released about 20 minutes before police entered the classroom after convincing the gunman they had to use the bathroom.

The other 18 students and the female teacher, who had acted as a mediator between the male hostage-taker and authorities, were released unharmed once officers were inside.

Skorik said the gunman had refused to communicate with officials during the standoff, but allowed the teacher to speak with authorities by phone.

During the standoff, dozens of people kept away from the scene by firefighters congregated in the parking lot of a nearby hair salon in the town of about 12,000 people that sits on the border with Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"This is not a good mood, there are a lot of people who are scared, a lot of students who are worried," said Jason Chaltry, 32, whose nephew is a sophomore at the school but was not in the classroom.

The high school has an annual enrollment of approximately 800 students, according to its website.

"They just spent a whole bundle of money on classroom doors to make them secure, but they don't have metal detectors at the school," said councilman Bradley Behrendt.

ACROSS THE NATION

Portlanders condemn bomb plot, criticize FBI probe

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Some residents of this famously liberal city are unnerved, not only by a plot to bomb an annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony last week but also by the police tactics in the case. They questioned whether federal agents crossed the line by training 19-year-old Somali-American Mohamed O. Mohamud to blow up a bomb, giving him \$3,000 cash to rent an apartment and providing him with a fake bomb. The FBI affidavit "was a picture painted to make the suspect sound like a dangerous terrorist," said Portland photographer Rich Burroughs. "I don't think it's clear at all that this person would have ever had access to even a fake bomb if not for the FBI."

Tennessee Supreme Court halts next 4 executions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Tennessee Supreme Court on Monday halted the executions of four death row inmates to allow a lower court to examine the constitutionality of the state's new lethal injection procedure. Convicted killer Stephen Michael West was set to die by lethal injection at 10 p.m. CST Tuesday for the 1986 stabbing deaths of Wanda Romines and her 15-year-old daughter Sheila Romines. Earlier this month, the state's high court granted West a temporary stay so a lower court could hear evidence in his lawsuit claiming the first drug in Tennessee's three-drug lethal injection protocol does not adequately anesthetize prisoners, violating the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Swastika case another race issue for NM town

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP)—Three friends had just finished their shifts at a McDonald's when prosecutors say they carried out a gruesome attack on a customer: They allegedly shaped a coat hanger into a swastika, placed it on a heated stove and branded the symbol on the arm of the mentally disabled Navajo man. Authorities say they then shaved a swastika on the back of the 22-year-old victim's head and used markers to scrawl messages and images on his body, including "KKK," "White Power," a pentagram and a graphic image of a penis. The men have become the first in the nation to be charged under a new law that makes it easier for the federal government to prosecute people for hate crimes.

Asia

Signs of diplomacy in NKorea crisis



South Korean marines walk at a port of Yeonpyeong Island, South Korea, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010. AP

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AP)—As U.S.-South Korean war games continued, the United States and two crucial Asian allies agreed to meet in Washington for talks about North Korea's attack on a South Korean island and the North's nuclear weapons programs.

Although North Korean rhetoric remained high—the country warned the military drills could trigger “full-blown war”—a senior North Korean official left Pyongyang for talks with leaders in the country's only major ally, China.

The visit of Choe Thae Bok, the chairman of North Korea's

parliament, to Beijing, combined with the planned Washington meeting, raised hopes that a diplomatic solution could be found.

Even as Choe traveled to Beijing, however, the North reminded the world that it was forging ahead with its nuclear efforts. Pyongyang said Tuesday that it's operating a modern uranium enrichment plant equipped with thousands of centrifuges. The main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary that the North is also building light-water reactors. The commentary, carried by the official Korean Central

News Agency, said the uranium enrichment is entirely intended for peaceful purposes.

The North first revealed the program in early November to a visiting American scientist. A light-water nuclear power reactor is ostensibly for civilian energy purposes, but it gives the North a reason to enrich uranium. Uranium enrichment would give the North a second way to make nuclear bombs, in addition to its known plutonium-based program. At low levels, uranium can be used in power reactors, but at higher levels it can be used in nuclear weapons.

General strike shuts down Bangladesh businesses

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Schools and businesses were shut across Bangladesh on Tuesday as the country's main opposition party enforced a dawn-to-dusk general strike to protest against alleged misrule by the government.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said the strike was called to protest a court rejecting Zia's appeal against eviction from a military-owned

house where she lived for nearly three decades as well as harassment of its supporters.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Zia's archrival, has said the opposition is simply trying to destabilize the country to protect its own interests.

Thousands of security officials were deployed to prevent any violence during the strike, and police installed barbed-wire fences around the headquarters

of Zia's party in downtown Dhaka. Only a handful of buses and three-wheelers could be seen plying the capital's usually clogged streets.

General strikes are a common opposition tactic in politically unstable Bangladesh and have been known to turn violent. While police said at least 13 vehicles were torched on Monday night, there were no reports of major violence.

state secrets. The two-hour-plus hearing in the case of Xue Feng ended without a judgment. He and his lawyer argued the government wrongly applied its broad powers to classify as secrets information that should be commonly available, said the lawyer, Tong Wei. Outside the Beijing High People's Court, a senior U.S. Embassy official called for Xue's release and return to the U.S. and fumed about the court's decision to exclude American diplomats.

Japan hit by 6.9-magnitude earthquake

TOKYO (AP)—A 6.9-magnitude earthquake struck off Japan's southern coast Tuesday, shaking a broad swath of the country and swaying buildings in downtown Tokyo. No damage or injuries were immediately reported, and Japan's meteorological agency said there was no danger of a tsunami. The temblor hit at 12:25 p.m. local time (0325 GMT), with the epicenter near the Ogasawara Islands, about 500 miles (800 kilometers) south of the main Japanese island, the agency said. It struck at a depth of 300 miles (480 kilometers).

World

Iran blames Israel after nuclear scientist killed

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president accused Israel and the West of being behind a pair of daring bomb attacks that killed one nuclear scientist and wounded another in their cars on the streets of Tehran on Monday. He also admitted for the first time that a computer worm had affected centrifuges in Iran's uranium enrichment program.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other Iranian officials vowed that the nuclear program would not be hampered by what they described as a campaign to sabotage it—whether by assassination or by the computer virus. The United States and its allies say Iran is seeking to build a nuclear bomb, a claim Tehran denies.

The two bomb attacks occurred when assailants on motorcycles attached magnetized bombs to the cars of two nuclear scientists as they drove to work in separate parts of the capital Monday morning. They detonated seconds later, killing one scientist, wounding another and wounding each of their wives, who were in the cars, Tehran's police chief said.

At least two other Iranian nu-

clear scientists have been killed in recent years, one of them in an attack similar to Monday's.

The wounded scientist, Fereidoun Abbasi, is on a list of figures suspected of links to secret nuclear activities in a 2007 U.N. sanctions resolution, which puts a travel ban and asset freeze on those list-



Ahmadinejad

ed. The resolution describes him as a Defense Ministry scientist who works closely with Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, believed to head secret nuclear projects. Iranian media said he was a member of the Revolutionary Guard, Iran's strongest military force.

Majid Shahriar, the scientist killed in the bombing, was in-

involved in a major project with Iran's nuclear agency, said the agency's chief, Vice President Ali Akbar Salehi, though he did not give specifics.

“Undoubtedly, the hand of the Zionist regime and Western governments is involved in the assassination,” Ahmadinejad told a press conference. He said the attack would not hamper the nuclear program. Salehi, who was a former teacher of the slain scientist, wept as he went on state TV later to talk of the killing. “They (Iran's enemies) are mistaken if think they can shake us,” he said.

Asked about the Iranian accusations, Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said Israel did not comment on such matters. In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said, “We decry acts of terrorism, wherever they occur. And beyond that, we do not have any information on what happened.”

Meanwhile, Ahmadinejad also acknowledged for the first time that a computer worm affected centrifuges in Iran's uranium enrichment program, which the United Nations has demanded Tehran halt.

Frustrations show as climate talks resume

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—Frustrated at past failures, climate negotiators began a critical two-week conference Monday with a call from Mexico's president to think beyond their nations' borders and consider all humanity as they bargain over an agreement to fight global warming.

“The atmosphere is indifferent to the sovereignty of states,” President Felipe Calderon said in the keynote speech opening the conference in this well-guarded coastal resort.

“It would be a tragedy if our inability to see beyond our personal interests, our group or national interests makes us fail,” Calderon said in a speech to

15,000 delegates, business leaders, activists and journalists.

Three years of talks have been stymied by a sometimes acrimonious divide among industrial and developing countries about their responsibilities in fighting climate change and accepting legal limits on how much they can continue to pollute.

The Cancun conference is the first full U.N. meeting since the letdown last December of the Copenhagen summit, which brought 120 world leaders to the Danish capital in an abortive attempt to adopt an overarching accord governing emissions of made-made

greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

Instead, that summit ended with a three-page political statement, including an intention to raise \$100 billion annually to help poor countries fight the effects of climate change and move toward green development that does not rely on fossil fuels.

Adoption of the Copenhagen Accord was blocked by a half dozen countries, raising questions about whether the U.N. negotiations were capable of reaching any decisions by the rules of consensus requiring at least tacit agreement from every country.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Gunmen abduct 12 villagers in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen abducted 12 villagers in a remote southern Philippine town in a feud possibly stemming from clan rivalry in recent local elections, police said Tuesday. The villagers were returning from a fishing trip Saturday on volatile Basilan Island, where al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants are active, when about 10 men intercepted them and forced them at gunpoint to the nearby town of Al Barka, said regional police chief Ben Latag. He said no group had claimed responsibility and investigators were looking at clan rivalry as a possible motive for the kidnapping. A police report said the gunmen were demanding a ransom and guns for the release of the villagers.

China bars US official from American's appeal

BEIJING (AP)—A Beijing appeals court barred U.S. diplomats from attending a hearing Tuesday for an American geologist sentenced to eight years in prison for obtaining information on China's oil industry that the government says are

WORLD BRIEFS

Egyptians riot, burn cars, claiming vote fraud

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AP)—Protesters set fire to cars, tires and two polling stations, clashing with police firing tear gas in riots that erupted around Egypt on Monday over allegations the ruling party carried out widespread fraud to sweep parliamentary elections. The country's most powerful opposition movement, the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, acknowledged that its lawmakers may be all but completely swept out of parliament by what it and other called rampant rigging.

20 bodies found in northern Mexico mass grave

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—The Mexican army discovered several clandestine graves holding at least 20 bodies near a ranch in the northern border state of Chihuahua, authorities said Monday. Soldiers found the bodies of 19 men and one woman buried in 12 graves over the weekend in the town of Puerto Palomas, across from Columbus, New Mexico, and informed po-

lice so they could oversee excavations, Chihuahua state prosecutor Jorge Gonzalez said. Gonzalez said that the bodies had been buried between four and eight months and that it had not yet been determined how they were killed because they were badly decomposed.

Observers play down fraud in Haiti's election

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—International observers played down allegations of widespread fraud in Haiti's critical post-quake election as ballots began to be counted at an industrial park in the capital Monday. At the same time, a pair of leading presidential candidates, each sensing a potential berth in a likely runoff, broke with rivals who had said in the midst of voting Sunday that the election was illegitimate and should be thrown out. The largest observer mission, a joint effort by the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, said in a report Monday that the election was marred because many people were blocked from voting by rampant disorganization.

Focus

In the nearly 30 years the AIDS epidemic has raged, there has never been a more hopeful day than this. Three striking developments took place Tuesday: U.N. officials said new HIV cases are dropping dramatically worldwide. A study showed that a daily pill already on pharmacy shelves could help prevent new infections in gay men. And the pope opened the way for the use of condoms to prevent AIDS.

"I don't know of a day where so many pieces are beginning to align for HIV prevention and treatment, and frankly with a view to ending the epidemic," said Mitchell Warren, head of the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, a nonprofit group that works on HIV prevention research. "This is an incredibly opportune moment and we have to be sure we seize it."

President Barack Obama said the groundbreaking research on the AIDS drug "could mark the beginning of a new era in HIV prevention."

The U.N. report said that new cases dropped nearly 20 percent over the last decade and that 33.3 million people are living with HIV now.

"We can say with confidence and conviction that we have broken the trajectory of the AIDS pandemic," said UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe in Geneva.

Health officials credit part of the decline to wider condom use, and on Tuesday, in a historic shift in church teachings, the Vatican said that using a condom is a lesser evil than infecting a sexual partner with HIV.

Condoms remain the best weapon against AIDS, and the new prevention pill is not the chemical equivalent. But scientists called it a true breakthrough. The pill, Gilead Science's Truvada, is already used to treat people with HIV. A three-year global study found that daily doses cut the risk of infection in healthy gay and bisexual men when given with condoms, counseling and other prevention services.

The drug lowered the chances of infection by 44 percent, and by 73 percent or more among men who took their pills most faithfully. Researchers had feared the pills might give a false sense of security and make men less likely to use condoms or to limit their partners, but the opposite happened—risky sex declined.

The results are "a major advance" that can help curb the epidemic in gay men, said Dr. Kevin Fenton, AIDS prevention chief at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But he warned they may not apply to people exposed to HIV through male-female sex, drug use or other ways. Studies in those groups are under way.

Because Truvada is already on the market, the CDC is rushing to develop guidelines for doctors who want to use it to prevent HIV, and urged people to wait until those are ready.

As a practical matter, price could limit use. The pills cost \$5,000 to \$14,000 a year in the United States, but roughly \$140 a year in some poor countries where they are sold in generic form.



In a May 2006 file photo, Gilead Sciences Inc. Chief Executive John Martin holds a Truvada pill bottle in a lab in Foster City, Calif. Inset shows a close up of the Truvada pill.

3 big developments make AIDS outlook more hopeful

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

Whether insurers or government health programs should pay for them is one of the tough issues to be sorted out, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"This is an exciting finding," but it "is only one study in one specific study population," so its impact on others is unknown, Fauci said.

His institute sponsored the study with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The findings were published online by the New England Journal of Medicine.

It is the third AIDS prevention victory in about a year. In September 2009, scientists announced that a vaccine they are now trying to improve protected 1 in 3 people from getting HIV in a study in Thailand. In July, research in South Africa showed that a vaginal gel spiked with an AIDS drug could cut nearly in half a woman's chances of getting HIV from an infected partner.

Gay and bisexual men account for nearly half of the more than 1 million Americans living with HIV. Worldwide, more than 7,000 new infections occur each day. Only 5 to 10 percent of global cases involve sex between men.

"The condom is still the first line of

defense," because it also prevents other sexually spread diseases and unwanted pregnancies, said the study leader, Dr. Robert M. Grant of the Gladstone Institutes, a private foundation affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco. But many men don't or won't use condoms all the time, so researchers have been testing other prevention tools.

AIDS drugs already are used to prevent infection in health care workers accidentally exposed to HIV, and in babies born to infected mothers. Taking these drugs before exposure to the virus may keep it from taking hold, just as taking malaria pills in advance can prevent that disease when someone is bitten by an infected mosquito.

The strategy showed great promise in monkey studies using tenofovir (brand name Viread) and emtricitabine, or FTC (Emtriva), sold in combination as Truvada by California-based Gilead Sciences Inc.

The company donated Truvada for the study, which involved about 2,500 men at high risk of HIV infection in Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, South Africa, Thailand and the United States (San Francisco and Boston). The foreign sites were chosen because of high

rates of HIV infection and diverse populations.

More than 40 percent of participants had taken money for sex at least once. At the start of the study, they had 18 partners on average; that dropped to around six by the end.

The men were given either Truvada or dummy pills. All had monthly visits to get HIV testing, more pills and counseling. Every six months, they were tested for other sexually spread diseases and treated as needed.

After a median follow-up of just over a year, there were 64 HIV infections among the 1,248 men on dummy pills, and only 36 among the 1,251 on Truvada.

Among men who took their pills at least half the time, the risk of infection fell by 50 percent. For those who took pills on 90 percent or more days, risk fell 73 percent. Tests of drug levels in the blood confirmed that more consistent pill-taking gave better protection, and in one subgroup, the reduction in risk was 92 percent.

The treatment was safe. Side effects were similar in both groups except for nausea in the Truvada patients. Weight loss also was more common in the drug group, but it occurred in very few. Fur-

ther study is needed on possible long-term risks.

All participants will get a chance to take Truvada in an 18-month extension of the study to see if men will take the pill more consistently if they know it helps, and whether that provides better protection. About 20,000 people are enrolled in other studies testing Truvada or its component drugs around the world.

The government will review all ongoing prevention studies, such as those of vaccines or anti-AIDS gels, and consider whether people getting dummy medicines should now get Truvada since it has been shown effective in gay men.

Gilead may seek approval to market Truvada for prevention, said Dr. Howard Jaffe, president of the company's philanthropic arm. Doctors can prescribe it for this purpose now if patients are willing to pay for it, and some already do.

Some people have speculated that could expose Gilead to new liability concerns, if someone took the pill and then sued if it did not prevent infection.

"The potential for having an intervention like this that has never been broadly available before raises new questions. It is something we would have to discuss internally and externally," Jaffe said.

Until the CDC's detailed advice on Truvada is available, the agency said gay and bisexual men should use condoms consistently and correctly, get tested and treated for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, get counseling and reduce their number of sexual partners.

Campus Life

GHIS congratulates PGFC winners

Once again the administration and parents of Golden Harvest Int'l School want to commend the excellent and admirable performance of its students during the Primary Grades Forensic Competition on Nov. 20, 2010, at Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High. Despite the tough competition, every Golden Harvest student turned in thrilling performances in various events to earn for the school a total of 17 wins.

Teachers are also given credit for their dedication and volunteerism in training these young performers. GHIS is also extending its heartfelt thanks to the parents who gave their time to be judges at the event.

K-2 DIVISION:

1st place, DI-A: Hannah Lacap
1st place, DI-C: Daphne Cruzat

1st place, Duo-B: Faith Bocago, Daphne Cruzat

2nd place, DI-C: Faith Bocago

2nd place, CSPK-B: Sebastian Ber-



Students and teachers of the Golden Harvest International School pose for a group picture after participating in the Primary Grades Forensic Competition on Nov. 20, 2010, at Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High.

nardo, Robin Kyle Alvarez, Raven John Francisco, Aaron Gabriel Ignacio
2nd place, CSPK-C: John Isaac San Nicolas, Vince Philip Salvador, Devin Ross Ayuyu
3rd place, DI-C: Jewel Combinido
3rd place, HI: Devin Ross Ayuyu
4th place, HI: Vince Philip Salvador
4th place, CSPK-C: Kyla Raquel, Jewel Combinido, Hannah Lacap, Michelle Leon Guerrero

3-5 DIVISION

1st place, DI-A: Marione Corpus

1st place, Duo-B: Davean Gonzales, Kennedy Vila

2nd place, DI-B: Joseph Yanto

2nd place, HI-A: Joseph Yanto

2nd place, Duo-A: Mark Daniel Ibanez, Fernand Ramos

2nd place, CSPK-A: Matthew Leon Guerrero, Kris Angelo Talens, Mark Daniel Ibanez, Fernand Ramos
5th place, Duo-A: Kris Angelo Talens, Matthew Leon Guerrero

Judges:

Amy Ibanez
Elenita Duerte
Rommel Yanto
James Arzadon
Jojie Aviles

PGFC coaches:

Lorelisa Espiritu
Imelda Bautista
Riza Pasaylo
Aida Lim
Elvira Armea

Green Meadow School students excel at PGFC

Proud parents, supporters, the whole faculty and staff of Green Meadow School congratulate all their participating students in the Nov. 20, 2010, PGFC held at Cha Cha Ocean View Junior High School for their excellent performance in both the Kinder 5-2nd Grade Division and 3rd - 5th Division.

GMS students proved once again their prowess and hard work in preparing for the competition by winning an outstanding number of honors. Participating students also express their appreciation to the untiring support of their parents and the dedication of GMS faculty and staff in getting them ready for the contest.



KINDER 5 - 2ND GRADE DIVISION

1st place, Humorous Interpretation A: Kristina Crisostomo

1st place, Readers Forum MD: Rownel Jody Coloma

1st place, Dramatic Interpretation B: Jill Anne Mallari

1st place, Choral Speaking C: Rayven Daca, Rownel Jody Coloma

1st place, Choral Speaking C: Joshua Alfred, Princess Casey Melchor, Aljanah Manabat

1st place, Choral Speaking A: Miles Navarro, Chelsea Garcia, Christian Edward Mendoza, Renz Lester Satur, Jhanilyn Marielle Cruz

2nd place, Humorous Interpretation A: Raphael Christian Galang

2nd place, Dramatic Interpretation A: Jhanilyn Marrielle Cruz

2nd place, Duo B: Christian Palattao, Christian Edward Mendoza

3rd place, Readers Forum MD: Alyson Red Camacho

3rd place, Readers Forum MC: Mikee Mame Mendoza

3rd place, Choral Speaking C: Aldraine Angelo Camacho, Mike Mame Mendoza, Christian Palattao

4th place, Duo B: Rayven Daca, Joshua Alfred

5th place, Readers Forum MD: Naveen Lucenara

5th place, Readers Forum MA: Aldraine Angelo Galang

5th place, Duo B: Miles Navarro, Chelsea Garcia

3rd - 5th GRADE DIVISION

1st place, Impromptu A: Amelito Dalusong Jr.

1st place, Choral Speaking A: Pionnah Rosej Gregorio, En Ming Caddac, Ryan Louis Divino, Annica Sofia Saturno

2nd place, Dramatic Interpretation A: Pionnah Rosej Gregorio

2nd place, Choral Speaking B: Joshua Saturno, Ezekiel Alfere, Kyoki Agult, Amelito Dalusong

3rd place, Dramatic Interpretation B: Chekaina Colomo

3rd place, Humorous Interpretation A: Kimvherly Ann dela Cruz

3rd place, Readers Forum MA: Mary Grace Briones

3rd place, Readers Forum ME: Joshua Saturno



3rd place, Duo A: Monica Aira Usi, Ezediel Alfred

3rd place, Choral Speaking B: Angel Mae Oropesa, Dustin Ross Salilin, Kimvherly Ann Dela Cruz, Art Vincent Alfeche, Ashley Reganit

4th place, Dramatic Interpretation B: En Ming Caddac

4th place, Impromptu B: Angel Sean Legaspi

4th place, Readers Forum MC: Angel Mae Oropesa

4th place, Choral Speaking A: Monica Aira Usi, Mary Grace Briones, Chekaina Coloma

5th place, Humorous Interpretation A: Robin Matthew Reyes

5th place, Duo B: Art Vincent Alfeche

5th place, Duo B: Ashley Reganit

ACCELERATED READER

Jae Hyun (Michael) Kim from Saipan International School has read over 2.5 million words and received over 350 Accelerated Readers points this year. We are so proud of him! He is a real inspiration for the rest of the class. Greetings from your 5th grade class at SIS.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Congratulations to GMS students for performing excellently at the recent NJFL competition!

...and at the NJFL competition

School year 2010-2011 means at least a couple of memorable "first" for Green Meadow School: the school's first 6th

Grade Class since it opened its doors to kindergarten pupils in 2002 and the first time the school competed in the

National Junior Forensic League, or NJFL, which was held on Oct. 9 and Nov. 13, 2010, at Dandan Elementary School and Cha Cha Ocean View Junior High School. Competitors to NJFL must be 6th grade students and above. GMS fielded six students from its 6th grade class in its first venture into NJFL with the following outstanding result:

Poetry Reading A (Master):

1st Place: Angela Reganit
1st Place: Ma. Theresa Dalusong
3rd Place: Danielle Coloma
5th Place: Piolo Gregorio

Poetry Reading (Novice):

4th Place: Samuel Alfred
5th Place: Angela Reganit
5th Place: Piolo Gregorio

Life & Style

Franco and Hathaway are picked to co-host the 2011 Oscars in Feb.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Franco and Anne Hathaway have just what Academy Awards producers want as hosts of Hollywood's biggest night. They'll put on a show, rather than just another awards ceremony, organizers say.



Franco



Hathaway

Bruce Cohen and Don Mischer, producers of the Feb. 27 telecast, said Monday they had chosen Franco and Hathaway as hosts because the two are rising stars with broad talent that will help turn the night into a celebration of film.

"What we have here are two really emerging talents who are very respected and are going to have, I think, magnificent careers," Mischer said. "They deserve to be there, they've got the chops to be there, they want to be there, and I think that's going to make the audience really relate to them."

Both have done serious drama and comedy. Hathaway earned a best-actress Oscar nomination for 2008's "Rachel Getting Married" and starred in such comedies as "The Princess Diaries" and "The Devil Wears Prada."

Franco had an Emmy nomi-

nation for the title role of 2001's "James Dean," costarred in the Oscar-winning "Milk" and delivered a memorable comic turn as a spacey pot dealer in "Pineapple Express."

Hathaway also showed off her musical talents in a duet at the 2008 Oscars with the show's host, Hugh Jackman. Oscar producers were uncertain whether Franco can sing.

"There's a rumor that he can, and we will be exploring that," Cohen said.

"What we do know is they both have a great sense of humor and a great sense of comedy," Mischer said.

While most Oscar shows over the past two decades had a comedian such as Billy Crystal, Chris Rock or Jon Stewart as emcee, Hathaway and Franco continue a recent trend of using film stars.

tween the years when Bob Hope and later Johnny Carson were fairly regular Oscar hosts, when big-screen stars would partner up as masters of ceremony.

"There was a period for many years after Bob Hope and before Johnny Carson where movie stars would host every year," Cohen said. "Mostly, that hasn't happened in years since, but perhaps we're entering another period of the glory years of movie stars hosting the Oscars."

Franco and Hathaway as hosts also could revive another old Oscar night occurrence: The possibility that one or both hosts might also be nominees. Franco is considered a solid best-actor prospect for the survival drama "127 Hours," while Hathaway has a chance for a best-actress slot for the romance "Love & Other Drugs."

Staggering Picasso trove turns up in France

PARIS (AP)—Pablo Picasso almost never stopped creating, leaving thousands of drawings, paintings and sculptures that lure crowds to museums and mansions worldwide. Now, a retired electrician says that 271 of the master's creations have been sitting for decades in his garage.

Picasso's heirs are claiming theft, the art world is savoring what appears to be an authentic find, and the workman, who installed burglar alarms for Picasso, is defending what he calls a gift from the most renowned artist of the 20th century.

Picasso's son and other heirs say they were approached by electrician Pierre Le Guennec in September to authenticate the undocumented art from Picasso's signature Cubist period.

Instead, they filed a suit for illegal possession of the works—all but alleging theft by a man not known to be among the artist's friends. Police raided the electrician's French Riviera home last month, questioned him and his wife and confiscated the disputed artworks.

Le Guennec and his wife say Picasso's second wife gave them a trunk full of art that they kept virtually untouched until they decided to put their affairs in order for their children. The Picasso estate describes that account as ridiculous.

"When Picasso made just a little drawing on a metro ticket, he would keep it," said Jean-

Jacques Neuer, a lawyer for Picasso's estate. "To think he could have given 271 works of art to somebody who isn't even known among his friends is of course absurd."

The pieces, which include lithographs, portraits, a watercolor and sketches, were created between 1900 and 1932, an intensely creative period for Picasso after he moved from Barcelona to Paris.

Among them are a richly colored hand study; a sketch of his first wife, Russian ballerina Olga Khokhlova, resting an elbow in a seated pose; and a collage of a pipe and bottle.

The collage and eight others in the stash are worth 40 million euros on their own, Picasso's estate says. All of the art is now held by the French agency charged with battling illegal traffic in cultural items.

Le Guennec, 71, claims to have worked at three of Picasso's properties in southern France: a Cannes villa, a chateau in Vauvenargues, and a farmhouse in Mougins, the town where Picasso died in 1973. The French daily Liberation, which broke the story Monday, said Le Guennec had installed a security alarm system for Picasso at the farmhouse.

"It's a big surprise both in terms of the numbers and the quality... (of works) appearing from one day to the next," said Anne Baldassari, president of the Picasso Museum in Paris."

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

In Loving Memory of

Antonio Cruz Atalig

June 28, 1949 – November 26, 2010

Was called to join his Creator at the age of 61 at Honolulu, HI.

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

C-L-Wife:

Maria M. Alvarez

Children:

Gonzalo R. Atalig, Marylou R. Atalig/Frank, Shery A. Lacaden/Jaime, Tony James R. Atalig, Anthony N. Atalig/Julie, Joey N. Atalig/Rose, Veronica N. Atalig/Lerins, Damian Jim N. Atalig, Trovani R. Atalig/Mary, Denard R. Atalig/Gineva, Andrianne R. Atalig

Adopted Children:

Melton R. Atalig and Melrose R. Atalig

Brother/In-Law:

Jesus C. Atalig/†Carmen

Sisters/In-Laws:

Candilaria A. Agulto/†Joaquin, Lucia C. Atalig, Consolacion C. Atalig/†Leonardo Wania, Lourdes C. Atalig/Juan B. Matagolai, Ursula A. Kapileo/Nick, Jesusa A. Palacios/Norman.

He will also be missed by numerous rear children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In his new life, he now joins his:

Mother:

Maria Cruz Atalig

Father:

Damiano Masga Atalig

Children:

Damian R. Atalig, Perfirio R. Atalig, Johnson N. Atalig

Brothers:

Perfirio C. Atalig and Gonzalo C. Atalig

Nieces/Nephew:

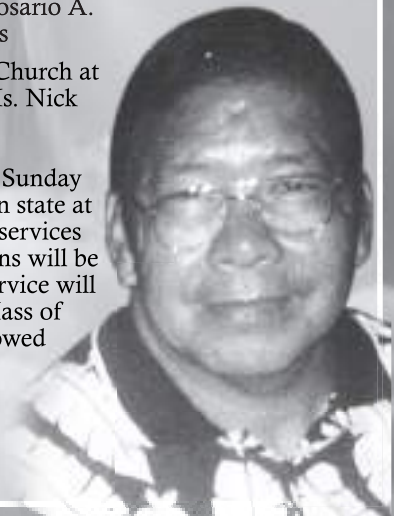
Barbara Jean A. Santos, Maria Rosario A. Reyes, Efrain Damian A. Palacios

Daily Mass of Intentions is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am. Nightly Rosary prayer is at 7:30pm at Mr./Ms. Nick Kapileo residence in Kagman 3, Puteng Dr.

His remains will be arriving from Honolulu, HI. early Sunday morning, December 05, 2010 at 12:30am. and will lie in state at Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel. Funeral services will be held on Monday, December 06, 2010. His remains will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at Mt. Carmel cemetery.

Please join us in prayers

Children and Family



DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

In Celebration of Her New Life

MARIA MANGLONA CONCEPCION DELEON GUERRERO

September 12, 1931 – November 25, 2010

Was called Home by our Heavenly Father on November 25, 2010 at Bremerton, Washington at the age of 79 years old

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband:

Victorino DeLeon Guerrero

Father:

Antonio Torres Concepcion

Mother:

Balbina Mendiola Manglona Concepcion

Brothers:

Luis Manglona Concepcion, Jose Manglona Concepcion, Raymond Manglona Concepcion, Jesus Manglona Concepcion, and, Vicente Manglona Concepcion

Brothers-&Sisters-In-Laws:

Vicente Sablan Cepeda and Woodrow W. Chance; Fridolin DLG./ Esperanza Songao, Vicenta S./Gabriel R. Quitugua, Pablo DLG. Tudela, Francisca DLG. Tudela, Antonio B. Santos, & Relina D. Tudela Juanet DLG. Torres & Raymond A. DeLeon Guerrero Joseph M. Fejeran & Vicente Hoashi

Grand Children:

Son-in-Law:

She will forever live in the hearts of her Children and their Families:

PRIMITIVA (Bibang) DLG. & Vicente V. Torres (Vincent/Rowina, Troy, Joaquin/Irene Tudela, Victorino/Brenda Cabrera, Ralph Anthony/Diane, Judy, & †Juanet)

HILARION (Larry) C. & Marcela DeLeon Guerrero (Gloria, Jennifer/Richard, Steven, & Charlie/Sara; Lillian/Serafin Camacho and Maria Borja/Donald Pangelinan)

LUIS ANTONIO C. & Alicia A. DeLeon Guerrero (Jack/Rosaline, Jacklyn/Jesus, Joanne/Romeo, †Ray Anthony, Johnny/Genevive, Victor/Beverly, Luis, Joy Mae/Francisco, & Edward/Angela)

EDWARD C. & Eve O. DeLeon Guerrero (Mary Louise, Michael/Angela Bond, & Matthew, Fidelia Mafnas/Glenn L. Ruben))

BALBINA DLG. & †Vicente Hoashi (Vicente Jr./Rebecca, Julie/Jared, Mary/Alberto, & Jesse/Joleen)

RAMONA (Mona) DLG. & Anthony M. Rosario (Anthony/Kumiko & Vincent)

JUANITA (Nita) DLG. Fejeran & Joseph Duenas (Edward John/Makiko, Cassandra, Rosemary/Shan B. Seman, & Jonita/Brian Flores)

MARGARITA (Maggie) DLG. & Barry Wonenberg (Coral, Vaughn, & Jacquelin)

MARIA DOLORES (Lilly) DLG. & Richard Snyder (Christopher & Leyandra)

VICTORINO, JR. & Cyndi I. DeLeon Guerrero (Alsilyn/Joaquin Kango, Valerie/Dustin Quitano, Angela, Calvin, & Gloria Niah)

DAVID C. & Agatha B. DeLeon Guerrero (Katherine/Steven, Krystal/Greg, Faith, Yunis, Isaiah, Mary, & David John)

JOHN C. & Alisha J. DeLeon Guerrero (Cheyenna & Kaden)

MARIE ANN (Eyan) DLG. & Dwight P. Pangelinan (Deyanna & Esteban)

Siblings & In-Laws: †JESUS M. & Concepcion (Nanai) Sablan Concepcion, MANUELA (May) C. & †Vicente Sablan Cepeda, VICENTA (Pat) C. & †Woodrow W. Chance, JUAN & Margarita (Meling) Reyes Concepcion, and †VICENTE M. & Mariana (Ki) Reyes Concepcion; FRANCISCO DLG. & †Relina Tudela and TRINIDAD DLG. Tudela & †Antonio B. Santos

She is additionally survived by numerous Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Godchildren, and other friends and families in the CNMI, Guam, and the U.S. mainland

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at the Kristo Rai Church on Saipan starting on Nov. 27, 2010.

Her funeral services will be in Boise, Idaho on December 11, 2010

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated and will always be remembered in our hearts.

Thank You and Si Yuus Maase

The Family

Boise Address: 2122 Illinois Street, Boise, Idaho 83706
Saipan Address: P.O. Box 502361, Saipan, MP 96950



Victoria's Secret models stretch wings on runway

NEW YORK (AP)—Add a pair of wings to the backs of many models and you'll find they walk even taller than their long, lean stiletto-wearing frames normally do.

Lily Aldridge, Candice Swanepoel and Erin Heatherton are the newest to win Victoria's Secret "angel" status reserved for its top models, and that means they got some of the best outfits to wear in the retailer's annual catwalk show that will be shown Tuesday night on CBS.

At their fittings, though, these young women kept their eyes wide, their attitude humble and gave off more of the girl-next-door vibe than jaded fashionista.

Meet them:

■ Lily Aldridge jokes that she's becoming so used to walking around in her underwear—in front of a crowd, to boot—that it's beginning to feel a little "weird" to be fully dressed.

In preparation for the big, televised splash on the runway, Aldridge, 25, says she does extra sessions of pilates and kickboxing—and the dreaded series of 100 crunches, leg lifts and rear-end lifts. She also tries not to eat sugar, she says, but she'll go back to cooking steak, peas and mashed potatoes, and playing shuffleboard when she visits her family in Nashville.

She wasn't a shoo-in for Victoria's Secret, although it's been a longtime aspiration. "Every year, there's always a big photo op, and you'd see the models looking so pretty and so happy. Remember the year of the pink-and-white matching outfits as they stepped off the jet? I wanted that."

Aldridge went to a casting about 18 months ago, got

life-size, pinup poster that previously hung in the window of the store in her downtown Manhattan neighborhood. "Hopefully they'll put me back in," she says.

■ Erin Heatherton, an Illinois native, doesn't go on any of her globe-trotting fashion shoots without her iPad. She needs a constant, eclectic soundtrack to her work, fun and travels, she says.

Currently Heather-ton is playing a mix of Katy Perry, Kings of Leon, Hall & Oates, Tito Fuentes, LL Cool J and Tupac Shakur.



AP
South African model Candice Swanepoel participates in a Victoria's Secret fashion show fitting in New York.

Her other must-have is the Rodin Olio Lusso botanical-based face oil that she uses to keep her skin hydrated. "I like to take care of my skin on my downtime," she says. In the days leading up to the Victoria's Secret show, her skin started to "freak out."

"I put calming cream on my face—and then I went out that way. Some people looked at me, but I don't care, my skin comes first," Heatherton says.

Most people don't put it together that she of the fresh-scrubbed face doubles as the glamorous model who wore a gold-warrior capelet and peacock panty on the runway, as well as a sequined boxing bra.

"Sometimes people know me when I'm shopping in the store, but, otherwise, I transform a lot with makeup. My look is normally almost boyish and very young looking," says the 21-year-old.

She's fallen in with a crowd of friends that includes several of the other Victoria's Secret models, and that makes her a little less nervous about the show. It means there's some fun happening backstage—and maybe on the runway itself, she says.

"I shoot for Victoria's Secret all year, so every day I do that, I have to be at my best. That means I have to be sleeping, having dinner with friends and be relaxed. I am always eating healthy and working out—but I had chocolate last night."

■ Candice Swanepoel gets "in a zone" that's positive, upbeat and confident when it's time to model lingerie on the catwalk. Yes, the thought of stumbling in the heels does cross her mind, but that happens more in the weeks beforehand than on actual show night.

"Getting down to your knickers in front of the whole world is a little nerve-racking, but I love it," she says. "I feel very comfortable in my own skin, and it's our moment to shine."

It's the 22-year-old South African who has been the face of the runway show this year, with her face featured on ads, in displays and on the invitation received by celebrities, stylists and fashion editors.

But when Swanepoel gets the retailer's catalog in the mail, she'll study her own photos and look for flaws that surely no one else would notice.

Christmastime is when she'll let down her guard a little bit when it comes to exercise, but eating right and being fit is part of her job, she explains. The free time she does have is spent on the beach. "Being cold is not something that comes naturally to me," she says.

Because of that, her cold-weather uniform usually includes leather pants and several scarves.

She's also not a stranger to cozy, comfortable clothes that allow her to hunker down with her new Jack Russell terrier, Luna, and indulge in her homebody tendencies, she says.

Tell that to her midriff-baring gingham bra and bustle set—covered up just a bit with a red crocheted sweater.



AP
Lily Aldridge poses for photographers and stylists during a fitting in New York.

a catalog gig and then won a slot in last year's show as one of the models in the teen-oriented Pink portion of the catwalk.

Her mother came to this year's show, taped earlier this month, when Aldridge wore a gingham push-up bra and matching panty and a one-shoulder, balloon-bottom, micro-minidress.

"My mom is over the moon about this. ... I don't know if she can handle it," Aldridge says. "I'm sure when I'm on the runway, she's screaming at the top of her lungs."

Aldridge says some people will now recognize her as she's walking down the street. But her boyfriend, Kings of Leon frontman Caleb Followill, has yet to see to see her



AP
Model
Erin Heatherton attends a fitting for the upcoming Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, in New York.

Madonna sweats details in Mexico debut of new gym

MEXICO CITY (AP)—As the glass doors of Hard Candy Fitness, Madonna's first gym, slide open in Mexico City on Monday, a mural of white, black and violet Warhol-esque images of the Queen of Pop greets each client.

But it's no disco with exercise machines or Hard Rock Cafe-style temple of Madge memorabilia.

The facilities are not much different from any other high-class gym in Mexico City, and very little screams that this is Madonna's first fitness venture, apart from the name—the title of her last album—which she says in fitness parlance is the perfect combination of “hard body” and “eye candy.”

“It's a sexy name that gives you the opportunity to have fun and to build strength as far as the imagination will allow,” the singer, dancer, actress, children's author and clothing designer said in a Q&A provided by her handlers.

Still, not every gym opens with a Hollywood red carpet appearance by one of the most powerful women in entertainment, who will cut the ribbon as tradition dictates, then teach a dance class for 20 hand-picked members with music by Paul Oakenfold, the DJ who opened her last tour.

The star said she chose Mexico City because it was a stop on



AP
U.S. singer Madonna smiles as she poses for pictures during the opening of Hard Candy Fitness, her new gym in Mexico City, Monday Nov. 29, 2010.

last year's Sticky & Sweet tour, which grossed \$408 million, second only to the Rolling Stones' A Bigger Bang Tour. She said she liked the energy of the people.

“Our plan is to use Mexico as a place to fine-tune our brand and then expand it to other countries and, in the long term, develop a global brand that includes the United States,” she said, noting that Mexico is close enough to home for her to be heavily involved.

Though Madonna's own hard body may not be plastered everywhere in the gym, the singer of “Like a Virgin” is omnipresent in the 30,000-square-foot (2,800-square-meter) facility in the city's upscale Bosques de las Lomas neighborhood, much as she has been in pop culture for nearly three decades.

Her touch is in the mosaic design of the bathroom tile and in the yoga salon's bamboo floor imported from China.

“She chose the graphics, colors, the machines,” said Chris Dedicik, general director of California-based New Evolution Ventures, Madonna's partner in creating the gym. “She has weighed in on the choreography of all the classes and given them a twist to make them more dynamic, more special and to better reflect her style.”

Kardashians sisters want out of debit-card deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The Kardashian sisters are seeking to cut ties with a venture that sold prepaid debit cards under their name after coming under attack for the card's high fees.

The card, which launched three weeks ago, was aimed at young adults, the same group that watches the sisters' hit cable TV show “Keeping Up With the Kardashians.”

Bosnia rape victims to complain to UN about Jolie

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—Wartime rape victims in Bosnia say they will complain to the U.N. refugee agency about its goodwill ambassador Angelina Jolie who has not yet clarified rumors surrounding her movie that have infuriated the women.

Wartime rape victims were outraged when they heard rumors that Jolie's directorial debut was about a victim in a rape camp falling in love with her rapist. Jolie's producer denied the rumors.

Bakira Hasecic, the head of the association Women Victims of War, says she will send a letter to the UNHCR, according to an interview published in daily newspaper Dnevni Avaz on Monday.

Jolie had promised a meeting with the women in November and invited them to shooting in Budapest but Hasecic said Jolie should come to Bosnia and meet the women there.

An attorney for the sisters sent a letter Monday to parties affiliated with the card asking them to immediately stop using the names and images of the three sisters.

The notice came after Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal warned on Friday that he would investigate the program to see if it violated state laws to protect consumers. He called the card's fees “predatory.”

TV producer charged with killing wife denied bail

LOS ANGELES

(AP)—A reality TV producer charged with killing his wife in Mexico will not be released from a Los Angeles jail while he fights extradition, a federal judge ruled Monday.

Former “Survivor” producer Bruce Beresford-Redman did not demonstrate a special circumstance that would warrant his release

‘Empire Strikes Back’ director Irvin Kershner dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Irvin Kershner, who directed the Star Wars sequel “The Empire Strikes Back” and the James Bond film “Never Say Never Again,” has died at age 87.

Kershner died Saturday at his Los Angeles home following a 3 1/2-year battle with lung cancer, said longtime friend and Hollywood publicist Dick Guttman.

Kershner already had made a number of well-received movies

The Kardashians—Kim, Khloe and Kourtney—launched the card on Nov. 10, with much fanfare. The “Kardashian Kard” includes a picture of the trio on one side, and the sisters said at the time of the launch they were “excited ... to create their very own financial product.”

But almost immediately the Kardashians came under attack by consumer advocates for attaching their names to a card with

fees that far surpassed other prepaid debit cards on the market.

“The Kardashians have worked extremely long and hard to create a positive public persona that appeals to everyone, particularly young adults,” says the letter from Dennis Roach, legal counsel of Dash Dolls LLC, which represents the three sisters. “Unfortunately, the negative spotlight turned on the Kardashians.”

of his wife, Monica, during a vacation in Cancun in April. Prosecutors say he surrendered his passport and was told by Mexican authorities to notify them if he was leaving, but he instead returned to the United States.

Prosecutors have filed documents stating that hotel guests and workers in Cancun heard and saw the couple arguing and that traces of blood were found in a hotel room that the Beresford-Redmans were sharing with their children.

Kershner told Vanity Fair in October that he tried to give the sequel more depth than the original.

“When I finally accepted the assignment, I knew that it was going to be a dark film, with more depth to the characters than in the first film,” he said. “It took a few years for the critics to catch up with the film and to see it as a fairy tale rather than a comic book.”

Parents' home is full of love, and sometimes it can be loud

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 1-year-old son and I spent the weekend at my parents' house. We had a wonderful time. Mom and Dad showered us with love and attention. It was like being at a resort even though their house is small. The size didn't matter until, at 4:30 a.m. through paper-thin walls, I was awakened by my parents making love.

Unfortunately, this was a familiar sound from my childhood. I didn't know how to handle it when I was growing up, and it appears, at 34, I still don't know what to say. I'm glad my parents still enjoy each other. My mother is sweet but becomes very defensive when confronted, and my dad is painfully shy. Should I talk to them about this, or just make arrangements to stay elsewhere the next time I visit?

I CAN HEAR YOU IN MICHIGAN

DEAR I CAN HEAR YOU: The next time you plan to visit, make reservations at a nearby hotel. If you are asked why, just say that you are all adults and you all need your privacy. It's a tactful way to deliver the message without being “confrontational.”

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Back in 1961 some neighborhood kids were showing off their “battle scars.” The three children (who lived across the street) were certain they deserved a beating, but were clueless about why. It kept happening. The practice of keeping secrets was common back then, but I knew the beatings were wrong.

Decades later, I was visiting the now-grown daughter and her mother when the subject turned to child abuse. The mom turned to her daughter and commented, “You probably don't remember because you were only 6, but your dad used to get drunk and beat up you and your younger brothers. A neighbor found out, so your dad stopped drinking.”

Abby, I was that neighbor. I was only 7 at the time, but I had read the Dear Abby column, which appeared on the comics page. My solution was to hang on that family's front door your mom's column saying that child abuse required the law's intervention. To the father's credit, the anonymous threat of losing his toddlers got him to stop.

That column was a lifesaver, and I thought you'd like to know.

FRAN IN HONOKA'A, HAWAII

DEAR FRAN: You may have been young, but you certainly were precocious and proactive. I hope you realize that what you did not only saved the family, but also may have saved some lives.

P.S. And I'm sure the daughter DID remember.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I disagree about giving alcohol as a holiday gift at a company party. He says it's always an acceptable gift, because even if people don't drink they can share it with future guests.

I think many people would be dismayed to receive alcohol. What do you think?

SUSAN IN SOUTHERN OREGON

DEAR SUSAN: I agree with your boyfriend. The only time that alcohol would be an inappropriate gift is when the giver knows the recipient doesn't use it. If the person is “dismayed,” it can always be gifted.

■ ■ ■

TO MY JEWISH READERS: The eight days of Hanukkah begin at sundown. (I cannot believe how early it has fallen this year.) Happy Hanukkah, everyone. A joyous Festival of Lights to all of you!

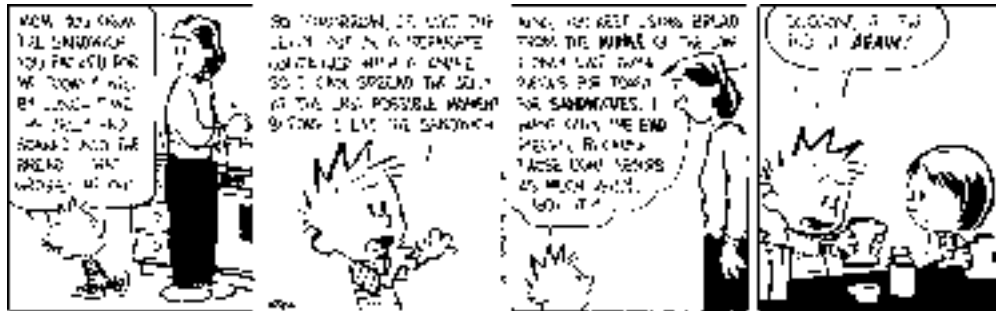
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby's Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



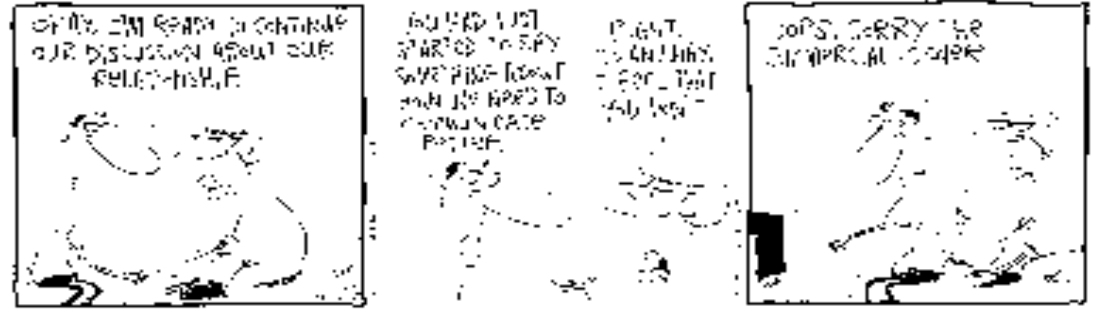
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Radar
5 Type
8 Trudge
12 Top-nation
13 Square
14 Mergin
15 Bacter
17 Largest
18 Preamble
19 Young cat
21 Payable
24 Hugel's
25 Jack's
28 Actress
30 In need of
33 Coach
34 Shice
35 Penelope
36 Exist
37 Visual

DOWN

1 — Hair
2 Give for a
3 Research
4 Bells
5 Actress
6 Wine
7 Lustful
8 Aristotle's
9 Most
10 Tom
11 Jerry's
16 Intimate
20 Wife of
22 Cheese
23 Starbucks
25 Movable
26 George's
27 Smith or
29 Carle
31 Starlet
32 Dentist's
34 Symbol of
38 Don't
40 Cowardly
42 Guinness
43 Handed
44 Garden
45 Smuck
47 Den
48 Billy
49 Haced
52 Chicken
53 P-m

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer: 12-1

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Silverman, 40; Nestor Carbonell, 43; Bette Midler, 65; Woody Allen, 75

Happy Birthday: Advancement is within reach and should bring you the benefits you've been wanting for some time. Don't be afraid to give a gentle nudge to someone you care for and want more response from. Helping others will enable you to make a positive difference. Set your sights high and don't stop pushing until you have reached your goals. Your numbers are 2, 9, 14, 35, 32, 37, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a step back and see what everyone around you is going to do before you make a commitment. You will be taken advantage of if you are too willing to volunteer your services. Keep your thoughts private. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Originality will ensure that you captivate your audience and get the response you are hoping for. Travel in order to communicate in person. Don't move too quickly on an investment that interests you. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): With an extra push and a set budget you can turn a service you can provide or skill you have into a lucrative endeavor. Keep things small, build slowly and you will get ahead. Your entrepreneurial ideas will capture interest. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional moments can be expected if you are dealing with personal or relationship issues. Listen carefully before deciding what to do. Focus on helping others and being compassionate, loving and understanding. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make plans to do something energetic. You need a challenge. Don't let someone's criticism get you down. Buying and selling property can help you cut your overhead. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Being torn between what everyone wants you to do and what you want will make it difficult for you to satisfy the ones you love and stay true to yourself. Ask someone with greater life experience for help. A sudden change of plans can be expected. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be emotional and stifled by the people around you. Revisit what's happened in the past—you cannot let things go on the way they have. Talking matters through calmly will allow you to salvage the relationship or terminate it without any regrets. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Something you've wanted to do for a long time will come to mind. Embrace the moment and follow through. Your actions will lead you in a direction that helps you improve your financial position. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make a difference if you go above and beyond the call of duty. You will enhance your reputation and receive proposals from people who can use what you have to offer. Leave ample time to get where you need to go. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's what you do, not what you say, that will count. Adaptability, coupled with charm,

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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diplomacy and hard work will ensure you are successful in your pursuits. Your ability to stay calm and fix whatever goes wrong will show your leadership ability. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There is something you have to offer that will bring in the extra cash you need. Good fortune is heading in your direction. A favor or gift can be expected. Someone who wants help may try to take advantage of you. Say no and move on quickly. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have trouble trying to get your point across. Expect someone to divulge information that will make you appear incompetent. You will have to overcome any negativity that comes your way by proving that you know what you are doing. ***

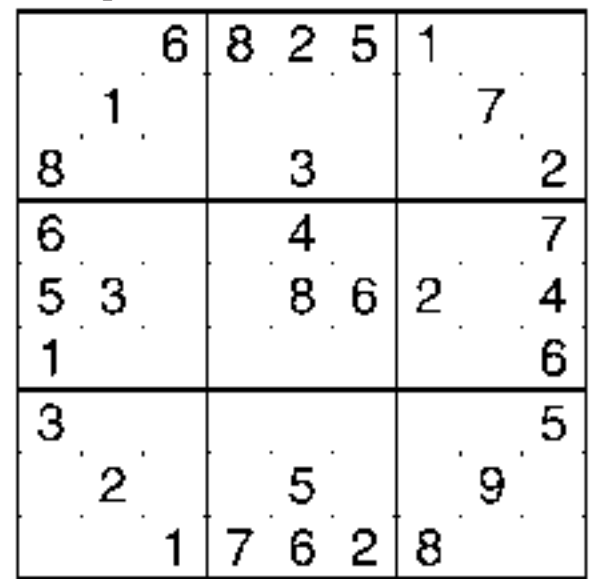
Birthday Baby: You are intuitive and charming. You will overreact, embellish and change your mind if it will help you get your way. You aren't afraid to stand alone.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 |

Difficulty Level: ★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLE

HOW TO PLAY: Find a word in the grid that contains all the letters of the word. The word can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

WONDERWORD: A word that contains all the letters of the word.



Yesterday's Answer: A word that contains all the letters of the word.

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|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
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| • 3-Liner with picture | \$24 | \$42 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | \$36 | \$57 |

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

| | |
|--|---|
| In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: MADYLEEN PALANG DAVIDSON Minor Child |) FCD GU CIVIL) ACTION) NO. 10-0512)) AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING))) By:) ASUNCION PALANG TUDELA) Petitioners |
|--|---|

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to Appoint Guardians for the above-named child by Asuncion Palang Tudela, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said Petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI on the 13th, day of December, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 24th day of November, 2010.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

| | |
|--|--|
| In the Matter of the Adoption of Megan Lee Ann Yost |) FCD-AD Civil Action) No. 10-0582)) NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED ADOPTION OF Megan Lee Ann Yost (Born August 30, 2000))) By:)) Scott Daniel Hayden |
|--|--|

Please take notice that the hearing regarding the proposed adoption of **Megan Lee Ann Yost** by Scott Daniel Hayden and the proposed name change from **Megan Lee Ann Yost** to **Megan Lee Ann Hayden** will be held at the Commonwealth Superior Court, on December 16, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

Megan Lee Ann Yost, was born on August 30, 2000 in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington. The petition for the adoption and change of name of **Megan Lee Ann Yost** is sealed. However, a copy of the petition will be provided to any person that requests a copy before the date of the hearing and is able to demonstrate that they are or may be an interested person to **Megan Lee Ann Yost**'s adoption and/or proposed name change, as determined by CNMI law. If you believe that you are an interested person, a copy of the petition may be obtained by contacting Sean E. Frink at Carlsmith Ball LLP, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone (670) 322-3455; Fax (670) 322-3368; E-mail: sfrink@carlsmith.com.

Failure of interested persons to appear at the hearing and provide their objections will result in them forever waiving any rights that they may have to contest this adoption.

Dated this 29th of November, 2010.

/s/ Sean E. Frink
Attorney at Law

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
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Job Vacancy No. 11-003 Opening Date: Wed. 12/1/10
Closing Date: Fri. 12/15/10

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TINIAN

DUTIES: Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director OR his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Plans and directs CUC services provided on the island. Conducts meetings in order to prioritize and coordinate projects. Plans, directs and implements plans for system improvements and capital improvement projects. Coordinates and meets with other divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Prepares a variety of technical reports and correspondence. Prepares and administers the division's budget. Performs short and long-range strategic planning. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associate's Degree in Engineering, Business Administration, Public Administration or a related field and five years of progressively responsible experience in related service areas. Must be able to keep track of all expenses and revenues pertaining to his or her operation; be able to come up with cost saving measures; Knowledge of: Leadership principles; Supervisory principles; Strategic planning principles; Budgetary principles; CUC operations and systems; Project management principles; Applicable laws, rules and regulations. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing and administering budgets; Developing and administering strategic plans; Managing large, complex projects; Giving presentations; Preparing technical reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a valid CNMI Driver's License. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

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James, Wade lead Heat over Wizards



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James and Erik Spoelstra had a pregame meeting Monday afternoon to talk about Miami's offensive woes.

Early returns suggest it was a productive chat.

James scored 30 points, Dwyane Wade added 26 and the Heat beat Washington 105-94 on Monday night, keeping the Wizards winless away from home this season.

James had 20 of his points in the first half, Wade added 15 in the third quarter, and though it didn't get into a blowout until the fourth quarter—it's the fifth time already this season where the Wizards have lost by double digits—it was comfortable for Miami throughout.

The Heat topped 100 points for the first time in their past seven games, and led by as many as 22 on the way to just their second win in their past six games.

And for Spoelstra, it was a milestone, his 100th regular-season victory, coming in career game No. 182.

Andray Blatche scored 26 for Washington, which is 0-8 on the road. Gilbert Arenas added 23 for the Wizards, who lost to the Heat for the eighth time in the teams' past nine meetings.

Nick Young scored 13 and JaVale McGee finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds for Washington.

The Wizards were without No. 1 draft pick John Wall, who missed his second straight game with a bruised right knee, and went largely with a seven-man rotation for much of the night. Washington was also again without Al Thornton (ankle) and Yi Jianlian (knee).

Miami's lead was only 55-49 with 10:31 left in the third quarter, before Wade—who has been slumping—got his scoring touch back.

He did it in a hurry, too.

Wade scored 15 points in the quarter, matching a Heat season best for any quarter this season, and needed only 6:17 to get that done. Consecutive jumpers 27 seconds apart, both set up by James, got him started, and he went on the attack the rest of the quarter—getting all 11 of his remaining points either at the foul line or on driving layups.

His personal spurt ended with 3:17 left in the period, when Wade split defenders on a spin move, got fouled, made a layup from the left side and hit the free throw for a 76-63 lead.

From there, things got chippy.

Washington's Hilton Armstrong and Miami's Juwan Howard were ejected with 32.3 seconds left in the third. Armstrong flagrantly fouled Heat center Joel Anthony on a layup attempt,



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) prepares to shoot as Washington Wizards' Kirk Hinrich (12) looks on in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010.

pushing him with both hands in what was deemed a flagrant-2 infraction. Howard's night ended after referee Bill Kennedy saw he had pushed Armstrong in the back while coming to Anthony's defense.

The Wizards' Kirk Hinrich and Miami's James Jones were called for double technicals after getting in each other's faces with 8:20 left to play, and Washington's Trevor Booker was called for a flagrant-1 about 5 minutes later.

James made 6 of his 9 shots in the first half, then started 2 for 7 following the break before hitting a 3-pointer with 2:32 remaining for a 103-83 lead.

Thunder 95, Hornets 89

At Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 12 of his 25 points during a decisive 14-0 run late in the fourth quarter and had 11 assists as Oklahoma rallied to

beat New Orleans.

Westbrook scored six in a row to tie the game, then kept going with a driving layup and a 3-pointer that put the Thunder up 88-81 with 1:38 to play. After the 3-pointer, he mocked slamming guns down into holsters at his side.

Kevin Durant hit four free throws down the stretch to seal the game and finished with 26 points and 11 rebounds.

David West scored 20 points to lead New Orleans but missed his final six shots while Oklahoma City was making its comeback. Chris Paul added 17 points, 14 assists and five steals as the Hornets lost for the fourth time in five games after an 11-1 start.

Mavericks 101, Rockets 91

At Dallas, Caron Butler scored 13 of his 19 points during a decisive third-quarter run and Dirk Nowitzki had 20 points

and 10 rebounds as Dallas stretched their winning streak to six games with a victory over Houston.

Shawn Marion added 14 points and 10 rebounds, and J.J. Barea scored 11 for the Mavericks.

Kevin Martin's 17 points and Luis Scola's 15 paced the Rockets, who've lost six of eight.

Dallas used a 17-6 third-quarter run capped by 11 straight from Butler to expand a seven-point halftime edge to 77-59.

The Mavs carried an 83-71 lead into the final quarter, and were up by as many as 22 down the stretch.

Jazz 109, Bucks 88

At Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson had 22

points, 11 rebounds and four blocked shots to lead Utah to a victory over injury-depleted Milwaukee.

Deron Williams also scored 22 points for the Jazz (14-5), who have won six straight.

Brandon Jennings led Milwaukee (6-11) with 27 points while Ersan Ilyasova added 18 for the Bucks. Milwaukee, again missing three key players because of injury, made 7 of 12 3-pointers in the first half to keep it close.

But the Bucks couldn't keep up with Utah's inside game without big men Andrew Bogut and Drew Gooden. The Jazz held a 54-18 advantage in the paint and 48-26 edge in rebounds. They also had 10 blocked shot.

James, Heat coach Spoelstra have pregame meeting

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James says his shoulder-bump of Erik Spoelstra carried no hidden meaning.

"Incidental contact," James said.

Regardless, James and Spoelstra met for about 30 minutes before the Miami Heat hosted the Washington Wizards on Monday night, talking offense and trying to find more common ground as the relationship between the two-time reigning NBA MVP and the third-year coach continues to grow.

James collided with Spoelstra while walking off the floor for a timeout in Dallas on Saturday night, prompting almost immediate—and ongoing—speculation that it was some sort of sign of disrespect. Spoelstra said he didn't view it that way, and James insisted Monday that there was nothing untoward going on at that moment.

"I didn't realize. I don't think Coach realized it either until they brought it to our attention," James said. "Really nothing, honestly."

There is speculation that their relationship is frosty anyway.

Citing an unnamed source, ESPN.com reported on Monday that Spoelstra told James during a recent shoot-around practice—which are closed—that he had to be more serious. The same report also said unnamed sources believe Spoelstra "is panicking because he fears losing his job."

James said Monday night that when he needs to say something to Spoelstra, "I go to Spo. I don't need to tell a source or whatever the case may be."

Spoelstra said he didn't mind the adversity.

"This is when your relationships get

strengthened," Spoelstra said. "As long as it doesn't break, I call these 'healthy conflicts.' I truly believe these are good for a team. As long as you can survive these, it'll make you stronger. It'll make your bonds stronger."

Miami took a 9-8 record into Monday's game, and players held a 40-minute team meeting in Dallas after Saturday's loss to clear the air. Chris Bosh said the team spent the time deciding "what kind of style we're going to play."

"Everybody's frustrated," Bosh said.

With good reason.

A team with championship expectations is struggling, and although the Heat knew there would be rocky moments, no one expected this.

"It's not always going to be good," Spoelstra said. "I tell those players, even in July when I meet with them, that I look forward to these moments when there is controversy, when there is healthy conflict, when people are getting squeezed, there's more pressure from the outside. I find comfort in that because I can see the silver lining."

James said the meeting could prove healthy, and Heat history suggests the same.

Dwyane Wade pointed out that Miami had a team meeting after getting embarrassed at Dallas in February 2006. The Heat came out of that meeting, won 15 of their next 16 games, and wound up winning a championship in Dallas four months later.

"We know we're a better team, but right now, are we going out there and proving it every night? No, we're not," James said. "So we've got to figure out a way to be the team we know we can be."

Source: Jeter has yet to make formal proposal



NEW YORK (AP)—Derek Jeter and the Yankees haven't held contract talks in more than a week and the shortstop's agent has yet to make a formal proposal, according to a baseball executive familiar with the negotiations.

Jeter, agent Casey Close and Yankees officials met in Tampa, Fla., about two weeks ago to start discussions. At that time, without making any propos-

als, Close suggested Jeter was seeking a deal averaging about \$25 million for six years, the executive said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity because neither the team nor Jeter's side have publicly disclosed details of their discussions.

The executive said the numbers were suggested loosely by Close and should not be interpreted as a precise request by the Yankees captain.

New York then made a \$45 million,

three-year offer to the shortstop. Jeter's side hasn't made a counterproposal, the executive said, but Close followed by suggesting a contract averaging about \$23 million for four or five seasons.

The 36-year-old Jeter just completed a \$189 million, 10-year deal that was third in total value to Alex Rodriguez's deals of \$252 million and \$275 million, both over a decade. Jeter hit .270 with 10 homers this year, down from a .334 average and 18 homers in 2009.

While talks with Jeter have slowed, the Yankees are more confident at amicably reaching an agreement relatively quickly with Mariano Rivera, who turned 41 on Monday. The closer is coming off a \$45 million, three-year contract, and New York thinks it can strike an agreement on a one- or two-year deal at a similar salary or a slight raise.

Fern Cuza, Rivera's agent, has not told the Yankees what Rivera is seek-

ing, the baseball executive said.

Rivera had 33 saves in 38 chances with a 3-3 record and 1.80 ERA last season, maintaining his decade-plus dominance.

New York also expects negotiations with Cliff Lee to intensify as the winter meetings approach next Monday. The Yankees have made signing the 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner their No. 1 priority among free-agent additions. Texas obtained Lee from Seattle in July and hopes to re-sign him after reaching the World Series for the first time.

Westbrook, 49ers roll over Cardinals



GLENDAL, Ariz.

(AP)—Brian Westbrook finally got an opportunity to show he can still do it. News that San Francisco's Frank Gore has a broken right hip means more chances are just ahead.

Westbrook rushed for 136 yards and a touchdown in place of the injured Gore and the 49ers sent punchless Arizona to its sixth straight loss, 27-6 Monday night in a shower of boos from the Cardinals home crowd.

The only fireworks Arizona mustered came during Derek Anderson's postgame tirade over questions about why he was laughing on the sideline with his team down 18 points.

Westbrook had 9 yards on five carries all season. He ran 23 times in his 21st career 100-yard game, but first since Dec. 7, 2008, for Philadelphia against the New York Giants.

"I think we have a lot of young guys, some of them have seen some of the things I've been able to do over the course of my career, some of them just don't know," he said. "They just see a guy running around the practice field. For me it meant a lot to have an opportunity to go out there and play and have an opportunity to have success."

San Francisco (4-7), beaten at home by Tampa Bay 21-0 last week, improved to 3-1 since Troy Smith became starting quarterback and pulled within a game of co-leaders St. Louis and Seattle in the anemic NFC West.

Arizona (3-8), two-time defending division champion, has not lost this many in a row since dropping eight straight in 2006, Dennis Green's final season as coach.

Anderson had a postgame meltdown reminiscent of Green's Monday night "they are who they thought they were" in 2006.

It came in the postgame news conference after repeatedly being asked by a reporter about being shown on the telecast laughing with offensive guard Deuce Lutui with his team down 18. Anderson's voice grew louder, with a few expletives thrown in, with every question.

"Every single week I put my heart and soul into this," Anderson shouted. "I don't go there and laugh. It's not funny. Nothing's funny to me. I don't want to go out there and get embarrassed on Monday night football in front of everybody."

The 49ers rushed for 261 yards, by far their season high and the most allowed by the Cardinals this season.

Westbrook, who led the league in rushing in 2007, was released a year ago after eight, often-spectacular seasons with Philadelphia, a move caused by a combination of his age and injury history as well as the \$7.5 million he would have been due this season.

He signed with San Francisco on Aug. 16, but had hardly played at all until Gore went down on Monday.

"I just kind of bided my time, tried to stay fresh, tried to stay focused," Westbrook said, "and when I got my opportunity, make the most of it."

The Arizona defense did not provide much resistance as San Francisco pushed around the home team at the line of scrimmage from the start.

"We got 'outphysicaled' tonight and that's not something I'm very happy with," Cardinals coach Ken Whisen-



San Francisco 49ers' Brian Westbrook (20) dives for the end zone as he is tackled by Arizona Cardinals' Kerry Rhodes (25) during the first quarter of an NFL football game Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, in Glendale, Ariz.

hunt said. "I'm disappointed, I'm hurt. I feel like we have a better team than what we showed tonight but obviously we don't. This is what we are."

Gore was hurt on San Francisco's first series, then briefly tried to come back before going out for good in the second period.

He had 25 and 15 yards in his first two carries, a sign of things to come against an Arizona defense that en-

tered the game last in the league in points allowed.

San Francisco coach Mike Singletary said he went more with Westbrook than rookie Anthony Dixon because of experience and track record.

"He is a pro. When he came in we told him that it is a long year and when your number is going to be called be ready to step up," Singletary said. "He is a bright guy, works hard and plays

his role. Tonight, he had to step up and he did."

Smith didn't need to pass much, completing 11 of 23 for 129 yards with one touchdown and an interception.

San Francisco, a team that has not scored more than 24 points in a game all season, led 21-6 at the half. The 49ers hadn't scored that many by halftime in two years.

The Cardinals committed their

27th turnover of the season on their first play from scrimmage when Anderson and Beanie Wells botched a handoff and Aubrayo Franklin recovered for San Francisco. On the next play, Smith threw 38 yards to Michael Crabtree for the touchdown, the receiver making a diving catch in the end zone.

Wells gained a measure of redemption on the next possession. Playing as a wideout to the right, he caught a 43-yard pass from Anderson but a season-long red zone problem continued and Jay Feely's 31-yard field goal made it 7-3.

Ted Ginn Jr. had a kickoff return of 41 yards and a punt return for 42, both leading to San Francisco touchdowns.

The 49ers went 55 yards in 10 plays after the kickoff, Dixon leaping over from the 1-yard line to make it 14-3 with 29 seconds to go in the first.

Shane Andrus, kicking in place of injured Joe Nedney, missed a 47-yard field goal on San Francisco's first possession. He also had a 37-yarder blocked by Dominque Rodgers-Cromartie in the third quarter.

Arizona blew an opportunity late in the first half after Smith's pass bounced off the hands of Vernon Davis and was intercepted by Michael Adams at the San Francisco 42. Anderson threw three incompletions and the Cardinals punted. The boos that had started midway through the first quarter were louder than ever as the teams left the field.

LaRod Stephens-Howling briefly got the fans back in it with an 83-yard kickoff return to start the second half, but it was called back by a holding penalty against Arizona rookie Daryl Washington.

Johnson, Finnegan fined \$25,000, no suspensions

HOUSTON (AP)—Andre Johnson called NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on Monday morning, before the league fined Houston's star receiver and Tennessee cornerback Cortland Finnegan \$25,000 each for their fight a day earlier.

Johnson did not speak with Goodell, but left a message. Johnson said that Goodell called back and left a voice-mail while the Texans were preparing to practice on Monday night.

"I just think that was something that I needed to do, just to communicate with him and let him know my side," Johnson said. "I'll give him a call back and whenever we get a chance, we'll talk."

Neither player was suspended after they slugged it out in the fourth quarter of Houston's 20-0 victory.

Finnegan set off the brawl by jabbing at Johnson's neck and face mask at the line of scrimmage. Johnson ripped off Finnegan's helmet and landed at least two punches to Finnegan's head and neck. The two spun each other, and Finnegan tore off Johnson's helmet before players and referees intervened.

Houston (5-6) plays at Philadelphia (7-4) on Thursday night, and Johnson said he was relieved to learn that he'd be allowed to play.

"That's something I have been thinking about ever since the incident

happened," Johnson said. "I'm happy that I'm not suspended. At the same time, I'm not happy about my actions."

When asked if he would appeal the fine, Johnson said "probably not."

"Just looking at it, I mean, what can I say?" Johnson said. "There's not really anything I can say, or tell them."

Finnegan did not speak to reporters after Sunday's game, but talked about it Monday on his weekly radio show. Finnegan said Johnson "snapped," and added that if he had punched Johnson, the NFL likely would have suspended him.

"This is the NFL, not the NHL, and it's a higher standard," Finnegan said. "That's the NHL. They fight. They get penalized for that. The NFL, it's not even heard of ... you do that, you're suspended. Hands down. That's what I've been taught."

"I guess he got his money's worth."

This was the second time they scuffled during a game. Last season, Johnson was fined \$7,500 for taking Finnegan to the ground by the face mask.

Finnegan plans to appeal the fine for Sunday's brawl. He told TitanInsider late Monday that Johnson went into "sheer rage" and that he still doesn't quite understand why the receiver reacted by throwing three punches at him.

"That's the crazy part, because I felt

like the game was going pretty good, other than the fact that he probably had that built up over last year's time," Finnegan said.

Finnegan also told the Web site he didn't think he deserved a suspension or a fine.

"I didn't throw a punch. It's not a fineable offense," he said. "There's nothing I did that I felt like was a fineable offense. Maybe a flag for quick-jamming him and hitting him in the face mask. But there's no way that I thought that that would ever be a suspension."

Johnson wouldn't say if he was surprised that Finnegan wasn't suspended. The Titans (5-6) play Jacksonville (6-5) on Sunday.

"He can say what he wants to say," Johnson said. "I'm not going to keep talking about him. He's just looking for attention, so I'm not worried about that."

Finnegan was fined for personal fouls in three consecutive games earlier this season and was warned by the league after the third incident to watch his behavior after the whistle.

Johnson, meanwhile, has built a clean-cut, soft-spoken image in eight seasons. He doesn't think the ugly incident will change that.

"I think anybody who really knows me, I don't think I've damaged my reputation," he said. "I can say that you can only take so much from a per-

son before you explode."

Texans coach Gary Kubiak said he never expected Johnson to be suspended.

"I didn't think that would happen," he said. "I think the league does a great job of evaluating every situation. Andre's reputation as a player and a person speaks for itself."

Johnson has been inundated with calls and text messages since the fight, and said he was "tired of talking about it." He attended Sunday night's Houston Rockets game with fullback Vonta Leach and got a standing ovation when he was introduced during a timeout.

"I couldn't do anything but laugh," Johnson said. "At the same time, it just shows the fans were still behind me, and still showing support, so I really appreciated it."

Titans coach Jeff Fisher, co-chairman of the NFL's competition committee, spoke with league officials earlier Monday. Fisher said in his opinion Finnegan didn't throw a punch, but did get Johnson's face mask.

"I have very strong opinions about the fact I think he should not be suspended," Fisher said of Finnegan. "As far as what the league decides to do, that's a league decision."

"It's an unfortunate thing that happens. You've got two very talented, good football players competing, and it's just very unfortunate. It's not good for our game and I'm just disappointed that type of thing happens on the playing field."

4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament

Photos By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The Yellow Idols' Malou Malasarte returns to the Orange Shuttle Masters during their consolation game in the 4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the REM Center.



The Yellow Idols' Father Charlie Borja stretches for a return.



The Yellow Idols' Manatsu Omori reaches for a volley.



The Red Hot Chili Shuttlers' Rodwealth Espana hits a shot near the net.



The Orange Shuttle Masters' Ariel Mariano stretches to return the shuttlecock against the Pink Dynamites.



Royale Blue's Jun Pineda bends down for a return.



The Pink Dynamites' Dick Guntu, left, and the Black Hawks' Rey Bu-lan warm up before their respective semis games.



The Black Hawks' Oh Imbog serves.



The Pink Dynamites' Toshiko Obata goes for a volley.



The Orange Shuttle Masters' Hannah Choi in action against the Yellow Idols in the battle for third place.



James, Wade
lead Heat
over Wizards

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Westbrook,
49ers roll over
Cardinals

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mieko all set for Hell of Marianas

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

XTERRA World veteran Mieko Carey is aiming to reclaim her lost crown when she competes against over 100 bikers in the 4th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race this Saturday.

"I won in 2008 and in every race I join, I try to do my best and win the race," said Carey, who timed in at 3:28:05 in 2008 to top the women's open division, but dropped to third place last year despite posting an improved time (3:22:27).

The 32-year-old rider lost to Australia's Amber Halliday (3:13:20) and Guam's Chiyo Lombard (3:22:24). Halliday will not be back to defend her crown, leaving Carey, Lombard, and Korea's Kim Myo Jin to duke it out for the women's division title.

Since returning from Maui, Hawaii where she joined XTERRA World, Carey said she has been training hard for

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mieko Carey leads a pack of riders up to Papago during last year's Hell of Marianas.

U12 Rollers finish second in Guam Thanksgiving tourney

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The U12 Rollers lost its Co-ed Turkey Dash 2010 Hoop Fest finals matchup to the Island Dragons, 35-18, last Saturday at the Tamuning Gymnasium in Guam.

Although they settled for second place, the Rollers improved from a dreadful 7-51 drubbing at the hands of the Dragons in their first game by allowing 24 less points in their second matchup while vastly improving their scoring output.

For the effort, the team was awarded the runner-up trophy and individual medals. In addition, tournament officials recognized U12 Rollers team captain Mike Cenir as the most valuable player in the division during the awards presentation held at the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Rollers Basketball Club's U12 team finished second in the 2010 Thanksgiving Hoop Fest Tournament held in Guam from Nov. 19 to 28. Mike Cenir, back row first from left, was selected as the most valuable player in the division.

end of the competition.

As of Sunday, Savali Talamotu of the U16-A Rollers team also maintained his second place spot on the top scor-

ers list with a total of 53 points and average of 17.67 points per game. Dixon Kwon of the Rollers U16-18-B Rollers team made the cut in the third

spot with a total of 26 points and a standard of 8.67 points per game.

"I am pleased to confirm that our club as a whole did better than last year...I can't tell you how proud I am of these kids, we keep getting better and better and the competition here in Guam was very admirable, there were even some junior national level players in the competition," said Rollers head coach Joe Diaz.

In other news, last Friday the 16-18U-B Rollers lost its Turkey Fly & Shoot Division-B elimination game to Typhoon Mocha, 33-41, and finished third in the six-team field. On Friday, Nov. 24, the 16-A Rollers fell to the Dededo Yellow Jackets for a second time, 52-60.

"During our visit, our kids got a chance to observe some of Guam's more formally struc-

See U12 on Page 26

CNMI strikers to challenge Japanese

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI strikers will challenge a Japanese team in a friendly match at the Oleai Sports Complex Field on Monday.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ed Salas said the visiting team is composed of college students/players from Keio University Soccer Club and the Japanese will have a 23-man contingent.

"They are actually here on vacation. They had thought of going to Guam for vacation, but coach Seki [Kiyoshi Sekiguchi] convinced them to come to Saipan," Salas said.

Keio University is one of the oldest universities in Japan and has five campuses in the country with the main one located in the heart of Tokyo. Other campuses can be found in Yokohama, Shinjuku-ku, and Kanagawa (for junior and senior high schools).

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Several members of the Keio University Soccer Club pose for a group photo before playing a game in Japan. The Japanese strikers will duel the CNMI players in a friendly match on Monday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

BANMI to discuss Junior Nationals selection process

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The selection process for the CNMI Junior National teams will be up for discussion in today's meeting among the organizers and coaches in the 18th Annual Rotary Club Youth Basketball League.

"I would like to get inputs from the coaches regarding the junior national squads and

coaches selection for the following age groups: 15-and-under, 17-and-under, and 19-and-under," Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar said in an email to Saipan Tribune.

The meeting is set for 5pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Players and coaches who

See BANMI on Page 26



O'Acres' Trevor Ogumoro goes strong to the basket during a game in the Rotary youth caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium early last month.

WALTER SUTHERLAND